

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE:

SEAN SWAIN, INSURGENT CANDIDATE FOR OHIO GOVERNOR

Dear Everybody,

I am running an insurgency campaign for governor as a write-in candidate. I have spent myself into oblivion with just copy and postage, and I currently have holes in my shoes.
This is a quick summary of my platform:

- WEALTH RE-DISTRIBUTION, forcing corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share instead of placing the burden on the working poor.
- MINIMUM WAGE for the governor and staff, by executive order; suggest legislation to the Ohio Assembly lowering their salary to minimum wage.
- SOCIALIZED INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE.
- BRINGING HOME THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD from Iraq and Afghanistan by executive order under a state of emergency.
- INCREASED SCHOOL FUNDING and expanded curriculum in order to make our kids competitive with countries like Belgium and France and Japan, rather than countries like Rwanda and Haiti.
- CRIME PREVENTION and reduction of the cost of imprisonment by implementing proven programs to rehabilitate offenders, providing a saving a billions of dollars per year.
- SUPPORTING NATIONAL AGENDAS FOR REPARATIONS to Native Americans and descendants of slavery, paid primarily by the corporations that owe their wealth to the profits they gained from the genocide and enslavement of Native Americans and Africans.
- SUPPORTING UNION ORGANIZING by fostering international alliances and promoting union membership for all Ohio workers.

While I have no illusions about my chances of actually getting elected, I believe the chances of impacting the debate, of promoting a world that is more fair, more just, and more rational, is certainly possible. That impact becomes inevitable if people get involved.

What you can do to help:

- Write, call, or fax the media on the enclosed media access list, and encourage them to publicize my campaign. These listed media have already received a copy of my platform, "Bomb Threat: The Revolutionary Politics of Liberation." You can encourage them to schedule an interview.
- Get copies of pamphlets, my campaign summary, and my platform and circulate them to others, to websites, to weblogs. I can provide copies if you do not already have them.
- Get people to register to vote. Get people involved.
- Attend the Solidarity Conference at the University of Cincinnati, April 7-9. For information, contact Anthony Rayson, South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430.
- Donate up to \$100 by money order only to Sean Swain A243-205/Toledo Correctional/P.O. Box 80033/2001 E. Central Avenue/Toledo, Ohio 43608. As the sender, clearly print your full name and address. All expenses donated will be used for campaign expenses (i.e., copy and postage expenses) and any remaining funds after election will be donated to nonprofit organization. All donors will receive a full report of all expenses.

Really, I don't need the money as much as I need the participation of people who want to organize a real alternative to the same old, tired politics of big money domination. I benefit more from feedback and ideas, from methods of gaining the publicity on alternative media websites and other resources. I hope to hear from you.

All Power to the People. Anything else is theft.

Freedom,

Sean

**SOUTH CHICAGO ABC
ZINE DISTRO
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BOMB Threat

THE REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS
OF LIBERATION

Sean Swain
Insurgent Candidate
for Ohio Governor

Dedicated to the people who must rely on food kitchens to feed their families,
36% of whom work full-time...

And to the rest of us who will soon join them
if we don't do something about it.

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Other works by Sean Swain available from South Chicago ABC Zine Distro/P.O. Box 721/Homewood, IL 60430 and from Books 4 Prisoners Crew/P.O. Box 19065/Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

Donations to the Sean Swain Insurgency Campaign must be one hundred dollars or less. All donors will receive a full report of all campaign expenditures. Donor lists will not be sold or otherwise provided for commercial use. All donations by money order only to:

Sean Swain A243-205
Toledo Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 80033
2001 East Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43608

Any unused money or resources donated to the insurgency campaign will be donated to charity after the election cycle.

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation... that people are already dying you could have saved, that generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. No what must be done, discover your humanity and your life in revolution..."

—George Jackson

"Here there is courage, where there is self-respect and dignity, there is the possibility that we can change the conditions and win."

— Huey P. Newton

"The social revolution, it must never be forgotten, is not to alter one form of subjection for another, but is to do away with everything that can enslave and oppress you."

—Alexander Berkman

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INTRODUCTION: A GUERRILLA IN THEIR MIDST

"Remember always to be able to feel any injustice committed against anyone, anywhere in the world. It is the most beautiful quality of a revolutionary..."

—Ernesto "Che" Guevara

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A quick history lesson. Same facts, new emphasis:

The British crown held legitimate, sovereign power in the colonies. A small group of revolutionaries saw the rule of kings as tyranny, and in the cause of freedom and self-rule they fought and killed the officers and soldiers of the legitimate government.

Our Founding Fathers were cop killers.

They established a system where the people had power over the government and could insure their freedom through the ballot or, if necessary, through the bullet. But even then, new forces were growing that would undermine democracy and steal power from the people, establishing a tyranny just as oppressive as the tyranny of kings.

As the genocide of Native Americans progressed, a wealthy elite gained control of key pieces of land and resources. They took their ill-gotten property and secured power. They became rich from the butchering of the Indians and invested that wealth in the slave trade, kidnapping people and making huge profits by paying them nothing at all, working them like beasts. As their wealth grew, they invested in larger industry, banking, and manufacturing. They handed down their wealth to those who became the captains of industry, the descendants of murderers and kidnapers.

They built their corporations and the many had to come, hat in hand, to get jobs from the privileged few. Those privileged few then exploited workers and used the profits to buy party bosses and candidates, making sure law makers and politicians protected the privilege of the few while putting the burden on the backs of the struggling many.

In the 1950s, they sold us all the lie: "What's good for General Motors is good for America." Any policy that benefited corporations and big business was a benefit to the country. The rise of corporate rule.

The descendants of slave masters own everything. Welcome to the new tyranny of Enron and Tyco and Wal-Mart; the tyranny of outsourcing and downsizing and union-busting. Meet the new rulers, the new kings.

The Future

In the basement cookin' plots and consciousness, it grows

Turnin' pages seein' lies behind all the myths we're sold

Recipes for flippin' scripts on those who run the show

Cot a surprise, their future lies somewhere over the rainbow

Here comes the boom...

Your enemy wages an undeclared dirty war against you and your freedom. They write the rules, they set the limits of the discussion, they dictate the terms, and they offer you exploitation and slogans, counting on you to go along with the program, to keep working and shopping and collecting a bigger pile of toys. Keep still. Keep sleeping. Don't ask questions.

Hijackers have the controls of your future in their grip. They have hijacked democracy and the economic system, not with boxcutters but with myths and lies that they feed us, keeping us hypnotized and neutralized, accepting what we're told.

Propaganda used on our minds to control how we behave

Structures and symbols and systems and labels maintain master and slave

Won't bow down, won't kiss the ground for a flag the butchers wave

Rejectin' fables, turnin' tables, show oppressors to their grave

And they call me a bomb threat...

Their words are weapons.

So are mine.

All of the other candidates for governor intend to continue sacrificing the people to the gods of the corporate dictators, the hijackers, the slave masters. The candidates only argue about who can serve as a better prostitute to the powerful, privileged few. They intend to hold the same shotgun in our faces. By my plan, on the other hand, the shotgun exchanges hands. I am a guerrilla in their midst.

Those in control stay on the 'down-low weagin' wars between the classes
They hypnotize and neutralize and sing to sleep the masses
'What ya gonna do? Can't ya see it's true? Do ya need a pair of glasses?
So now who's down? Coin' underground, got somethin' for their asses
Here comes the boom...

My insurgency campaign for governor is about the people taking power back. I don't mean a change in government philosophy or a handful of policy reforms that put a new face on an old enemy. No, I'm talking about a new relationship between the people and the government, who gives the orders and who obeys, smashing the monopoly of power held by the privileged few who corrupt everything with their money.
What I'm talking about is what the established parties and their corporate owners don't want you to think about.

Re-examine, don't take for granted all the things you think you know
Ouz it really don't take a weatherman to know which way the winds blow
Re-examine, don't take for granted all the things you think you know
Ouz it really don't take The Weathermen to know which way the winds blow...

The truth is dangerous.
The truth is like a bomb, exploding myths and blowing apart structures of lies, liberating us from the illusions and false thinking of the oppressors who have controlled and enslaved us with our tacit cooperation. The truth, just like a bomb, ruthlessly shocks us to consciousness, jars us awake.

Thoughts so true, so dangerous that they're criminal violations
War is terror waged by the rich for their greedy corporations
Terror is the war of the poor in a struggle for liberation
It's time to act, take power back, attack without hesitation
And they say I'm a bomb threat

Once awakened, we must ask the one question, the only question that has ever mattered, that has ever changed history: What can we do about it?
You can start by reading the following 42 pages and thinking about what you read, and coming up with ideas of your own.

If all these things inside my head could be laid out and be seen
And printed up like all that stuff you read in magazines
You'd turn the page and feel the rage and know just what I mean
Revolution's a not dead 'til we lose our heads at the blades of the guillotine
Now you're another bomb threat...

You can turn your ballot into a bullet and scratch my name on it in November. You can get others to do the same. You can mobilize the poor and the desperate, those uninspired by empty promises of the slave masters' puppets. You can get organized and learn to defy, to resist, to take the power back. And that's the beginning.

Tick, tick, tick...
Tell the hijackers and their candidates and all the enemies of the people who thought their idea of a new order was a foregone conclusion: The future is coming. We're awake. And we outnumber you.
All Power to the People. Anything else is theft.

Freedom,

Sean Swain
Political Prisoner and
Insurgent Candidate for Governor
Toledo Corruptional Institution
February 29, 2006

committed revolutionary. Indeed, oppression first shaped the spirit of resistance within him, and so it can neither defeat nor destroy his resolve. But he has two far greater enemies—the failure of vision and the loss of the original revolutionary concept. Either of these can lead to alienation from those the revolutionary seeks to set free... ”

— Huey P. Newton

So we begin by uprooting that piece of the oppressor that has been planted in all of us. The social and political agenda represented in this collection of policy papers is only a platform, a foundation for the beginning of that process. It only sets the stage for the active involvement of a truly liberated people, made capable by liberty, to take control of their own lives.

And that's when the shotgun really exchanges hands. Permanently.
Beyond the ballot box, beyond this election and this insurgency campaign, all of us in Ohio, in the United States, in the world, have a duty to ourselves and future generations to work together and pull our world out of the iron grip of a powerful enemy. We have to act. We can win. We must.

Revolutions begin with the few, the one. With you. The world can change, and has changed, with just twenty-two guerrillas and a yacht.
We don't even need the yacht.
History is waiting on us. History is waiting.
All Power to the People. Anything else is theft.

Freedom,

Sean Swain
Political Prisoner and
Insurgent Candidate for Governor
Toledo Corruptional Institution
March 1, 2006

Recommended Reading:

- "Revolutionary Suicide," Huey P. Newton
- "Steal this Book," Abbie Hoffman
- "Assata," Assata Shakur
- "The Zapatista Reader," Tom Hayden (editor)
- "A People's History of the United States," by Howard Zinn
- "The New War on Terror," Noam Chomsky
- "Guerrilla Warfare," Ernesto "Che" Guevara
- "Military Writings of 'Ho Ze Dong," 'Ho Ze Dong
- "War of the Flea," Robert Taber
- "Proposal for the Formation of a People's Liberation Army," Zapata

Recommended Viewing:

"Guerrilla," Frontline documentary on the urban guerrilla tactics of the Symbionese Liberation Army

Insurgent Campaign Vetting List

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The Problem

"The very first act of the State, the compulsory assessment and collection of taxes, is itself an aggression, a violation of equal liberty... How is it possible to sanction, under the law of equal liberty, the confiscation of a man's earnings to pay for protection which he has not sought and does not desire?... And, if this is an outrage, what name shall we give to such confiscation when the victim is given, instead of bread, a stone, instead of protection, oppression? To force a man to pay for the violation of his own liberty is indeed an addition of insult to injury. But that is exactly what the State is doing..."

—Benjamin R. Tucker

"The origin of the State, and its reason for existence, lie in the fact that it interferes in favor of the propertied and to the disadvantage of the propertyless."

—Peter Kropotkin

"Exploiting and governing mean the same; the one completes the other, and serves as its means and its end."

—Mikhail Bakunin

At the end of World War Two, working people paid in roughly half of the tax base in this country and corporations paid the other half. Even then, the situation wasn't fair because the corporations made far, far more money than the workers, but at least they paid half of the tax base.

By the end of the Nixon administration, the policy in Vietnam had expanded the military-industrial complex—the multi-billion dollar corporations that raked in huge government contracts for building the hardware and machinery of death. These companies made huge profits off of the war and made more money the longer the war lasted. Yet, by the time Nixon resigned, the U.S. had accumulated a national debt and the workers—making far less in comparison to the corporations than they had at the end of World War Two—paid more than two-thirds of the tax base.

Corporations, and the wealthy elite who run them, had gotten far richer but paid only a fraction in taxes of what they had paid just thirty years before.

Then came Ronald Reagan and what his vice-president, George H.W. Bush, called, "Voodoo Economics." Reagan sold America the economic ideas of Von Hayek, a theory where government gives tax breaks to the rich while getting all obstacles out of the way of investment (which means busting unions and rolling back safety regulations), allowing the wealthy to expand business and create more jobs, and the wealth would "trickle down" to the poor and the workers.

No wealth trickled down. Only blood, sweat, and tears.

During the Reagan and Bush I years, American workers slept in their cars and struggled to keep their families fed. The corporations made greater collective profit than ever before. The worker paid eighty percent of the tax base. The wealthy corporations paid twenty percent.

President Bill Clinton made minor changes and employed the economic ideas of John Maynard Keynes ("Keynesian Economics"), where government attempts to put disposable income into the hands of the poor—the opposite of trickle-down economics. The problem is, he made no structural changes to the tax system. So, once he left office, his replacement could easily wipe away the surface changes and immediately end the days of general prosperity for the worker.

With the Bush II tax cuts, the average worker received a rebate of \$300. The extremely wealthy collected, and will continue to collect over years, huge piles of money—even though they haven't paid their fair share of the taxes in the first place.

The rich get richer by leaps and bounds. The worker gets poorer and poorer. Now, a small group of the richest people in the world own 83% of the world's wealth. They get richer and richer, not because they work harder or came up with better ideas; they get richer because they bribe politicians to make you pay their share of the tax burden while they save their money and invest in more businesses and exploit more workers for more profit.

Ultimately, the irony is, the State benefits from our incapacity, and it is threatened if we become more capable, more self-responsible, more self-governing. It must limit our freedom and our capacity to exercise it, or the State itself becomes irrelevant and obsolete. And the problem for the State is; it needs us more than we need it. "I believe, and everyone must grant," said Mahandas Gandhi, "that no government can exist for a single moment without the cooperation of the people, willing or forced, and if the people suddenly withdraw their cooperation in every detail, the government will come to a standstill."

So, beyond the ballot box and beyond elections, which change little or nothing unless the people elect a revolutionary (and the chances of that happening are slim, given the iron grip the privileged few maintain over the public debate), real change begins with the people, with self-organization, with creating new communities that transcend the current order.

With social forces foreclosing on every other avenue, freedom demands this of us. It is our right and our duty.

"...Accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when the long train of usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security."

—Declaration of Independence of the United States

I'm talking about the same thing that the founding fathers were talking about: Revolution. Keep in mind, the American Revolution occurred with the participation of roughly 5% of the existing population of their time. That means 95% of the colonists did not choose sides. The Cuban Revolution, likewise, began when Fidel Castro and twenty-two survivors of the beach landing ran up into the jungle, only to roll into Havana, victorious, eighteen months later.

History has proven again and again that revolution is the method of a small group or even of an individual to resist tyranny and liberate themselves and others.

"Marxist philosophy holds that the most important problem does not lie in understanding the laws of the objective world and thus being able to explain it, but in applying the knowledge of these laws to actively change the world."

—Yao Ze Dong

"When we speak of the guerrilla fighter, we are speaking of the political partisan, an armed civilian whose principle weapon is not his rifle or his machete, but his relationship to the community, the nation, in and for which he fights..."

—Robert Taber

So where does that leave us? Barring the election of revolutionaries dedicated to implementing ideas like those contained in this collection of policy papers, the revolution begins with each of us. The revolution begins when we internalize it, when it drives us to act. To do something. We must organize and educate and resist the forces of oppression and tyranny, the forces of non-freedom. We must recognize the enemy and how we have worked as unconscious accomplices, and we must develop a new way of living that reflects the world we intend to bring about. We become the revolution. And our hope and love for a new reality becomes contagious.

"...The day after the revolution no one should have the power or the economic wherewithal to exploit the labor of another..."

—Luigi Fabbrì

"...A revolutionary party is under constant stress from both internal and external forces. By its very nature a political organization dedicated to social change invites attack from the established order, constantly vigilant to destroy it. This danger is taken for granted by the

None of the other candidates for Ohio governor will talk about this problem. For them, it isn't a problem. They don't care about the "maldistribution of wealth." They aren't one paycheck away from sleeping in their cars.

Any of my opponents, if elected, will continue the process of permitting a free pass to the rich and the corporations. They will permit the wealthy to use government as a tool to keep the trend going, to cut the tax burden of the rich and put it on the backs of the poor.

The people who benefit most from this corrupt state of affairs are the richest of the rich who have never worked, who have inherited their fortunes. These are the fortunes of the "old" money that you can trace back to the theft of land from Native Americans, and from the free labor provided by slaves kidnapped and brought to this country to work and make others rich.

The current rulers of the world who buy governments and buy candidates have inherited their unearned fortunes from thieves, murderers and kidnapers who shot the owners of the land and brutalized the workers they kidnapped. Try to make your fortune the same way today and you'll be tossed into prison for life.

So, when you say the rich deserve what they have and when you say they deserve to keep what they've earned, what you're really saying is that the grandchildren of thieves and killers and rapists and murderers should be allowed to heap up piles of money they never worked for, and they are entitled to use that money in order to bribe and leverage their way into everybody else's money too. You're saying they have the right to amass more wealth than they could spend in a dozen lifetimes, all while children die of preventable diseases, all while civil wars and terror break out all over the world as the result of poverty and desperation. You're saying the right to life for the poor of the world, the right to the basic necessities is outweighed by the right of the rich to hoard their wealth.
I disagree.

The Solution

"I have read of the wonderful sparkle on costly champagne;—I have never seen it.

If I did I think it would look to me like mother tears over the little... wasted forms of dead babies... Yes, I want you to remember that these rich are blood-drinkers, tearers of human flesh, gravers of human bones! Yes, if I had the power I would burn your wrongs upon your hearts in characters that should glow like live coals at night!"

—Voltaire DeCleyre

"What all want to have a share in will be withdrawn from that privileged who wants to have it for himself alone; it is made a common possession. As a common possession, everyone has a share in it, and this share is his property... The property which for the present is still withheld from us can be better made use of when it is in the hands of us all. Let us associate ourselves for the purpose of this robbery..."

—Max Stirner

"The progress of large-scale capitalist development... has brought us so far that today we can seriously talk about destroying capitalism once and for all. No, still more; today we are not only in a position to perform this task, its performance is not only a duty toward the proletariat, but its solution offers the only means of saving human society from destruction."

—Rosa Luxemburg

If elected governor, I would ensure that the government of the State of Ohio would no longer be used as a weapon by the rich in their quiet and effective class war against the poor and working class. Instead, I would fashion the authority of government into a tool to re-distribute wealth to the poor and struggling, and re-distribute a larger tax burden to the wealthy. I would propose a radical change to the state tax system.

But even that would not be enough. I would also have to use national governors' conferences

THE FINAL WORD

Our freedom, our real liberation from tyranny and oppression is not compatible with an organized government vested with genuine power to control the people. Government exercises authority, expands its own authority, takes unto itself the right to dictate and govern activities, and it intrudes into the lives of people. The government becomes more organized, more methodical, while the people become less organized and less capable of doing for themselves. As Ludwig Faber said, "Where a government exists... the only really organized people are the minority who make up the government."

The many become governed by the few.

"...What happens in every country, by all men, that one man abuses a hundred thousand and deprives them of their liberty? Who would believe it, if only he heard of it, and did not see it? And if it only happened in strange and distant lands and was spoken of, who would not suppose that it was somewhat false and made up, not really true?"

—Etienne de la Boetie

"Nothing appears more surprising, to those who consider human affairs with a philosophical eye, than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few, and the implicit submission with which men resign their own sentiments and passions to those of their rulers."

—David Hume

With the existence of a government consolidating power over the people, the end result is a small group of masters and a larger group of slaves. The shotgun slips from the grip of the people and lands firmly into the hands of the oppressor. Tyranny replaces freedom.

So it stands to reason that real freedom cannot prevail without permanently changing the relationship between the people and the State. "The State is a condition, a certain relationship between human beings, a mode of human behavior; we destroy it," Gustav Landauer said, "by contracting other relationships, by behaving differently."

We change our relationship to the State and recognize that we are above it, not it above us. In this, we form new relations, we organize ourselves in new ways. Our new relations, our new positions, our new power and freedom over our own lives all work to impact who we are. We become different people in freedom than we are in slavery. Our position in the world changes, and our perception of it as well.

Freedom infuses us with a heightened sense of priorities. We develop the capacity of self-governance and become a power unto ourselves. Because the government becomes irrelevant to who we become, we are a danger to intrusive systems and structures to which we previously submitted our own wills, structures and systems designed to control us. The State's collective job-security would demand putting us in our place. Thus, the conflict between the mechanism of the State and the people.

"Persons in power should be very careful how they deal with a man who cares nothing for sensual pleasures, nothing for riches, nothing for comfort or praise or for promotion, but is simply determined to do what he believes to be right. He is a dangerous and uncomfortable enemy, because his body, which you can always conquer, gives you so little purchase on his soul..."

—Professor Gilbert Murray

"What if a person was so oriented that the loss of no material thing could cause him mental disorganization? This is the free agent..."

—George Jackson

structure where people would want to act that way. Ohio currently locks up more than 44,000 people who cannot get with the program. This seems like an indictment not of the people, but of the program. Any program that must lock away 44,000 people to function is not a program that is working. Instead of tossing away 44,000, Ohio should throw out the program.

Ohio spends millions of dollars a year enforcing marijuana laws. We lock away our kids and give them criminal records and spend time and resources in order to prevent people from engaging in the consumption of a natural herb. We spend millions of dollars on police task forces and sting operations that, in the end result, prevent college kids from getting the machines and sleeping until noon.

We have criminalized a plant that can grow in your yard. You are permitted by law to mow your lawn and smoke the grass clippings in the privacy of your own home. You cannot smoke those clippings, by law, if one marijuana plant grew in your yard. That plant makes you a criminal. You have joined the ranks of Jeffrey Dahmer and John Dillinger.

Further, we have criminalized hemp. Hemp, another natural plant, possesses the same chemical present in marijuana that gives people a feeling of euphoria when it is smoked. However, those properties can be arrested early in the plant's growth, and smoking it would not have any effect on the consumer.

Hemp is an excellent source for paper and paper products, as well as textiles for clothing and draperies and duffelbags and throw-rugs. A single crop of hemp grown by farmers in Ohio would carry the market on paper production and greatly reduce the need for logging in the American northeast. The ecological disaster of deforestation would cease; as a hemp crop could be grown year after year, predictably providing a specific amount of product while, at the same time, trees used for paper production take decades to replace.

Neither hemp nor marijuana are physically addictive. It is not possible to overdose on either plant by smoking. The health risks associated with either plant are far less than the consumption of alcohol or cigarettes; yet both alcohol and cigarettes are legal. The criminalization of marijuana guarantees only that Ohio consumers of marijuana see their money leave the state and profit areas where the marijuana is grown. The criminalization of hemp costs Ohio millions of dollars in revenue for paper production and increases the problems of ecological disaster for no reason.

The Solution

Marijuana should be de-criminalized. "De-criminalization" is not the same as legalization, as legalization is a process by which all laws are changed and society gives its consent to the previously-criminalized activity. De-criminalization, on the other hand, simply makes the activity unpunishable. Laws may still exist but remain unenforced. Marijuana uncovered would not be confiscated. Persons in possession of it would not be arrested. Police would not spend their time and resources dealing with marijuana.

As an end result, millions of dollars currently wasted in incarcerating marijuana smokers could be put to use preventing real crime.

Production of commercial hemp should be legalized. Hybrid crops could be developed that are not smokable, and Ohio farmers would become a regular, renewable source of the world's paper. The wealth brought in from hemp production would drastically raise the general standard of living of Ohioans statewide.

to promote a national agenda that would leave corporations no place where they could push their tax burden onto the workers.

Under my administration, the poorest home in Ohio would earn \$30,000 a year. Any home earning less would receive additional funds with their tax returns in order to take the yearly income up to \$30,000.

Further, any home making \$60,000 or less would pay nothing in taxes. They would have every dime of tax returned to them.

This can be accomplished by transferring the tax burden to the wealthy and to corporations. They would be forced to pay their fair share for the first time since World War Two. I would also finance this wealth re-distribution by other cuts in state funding that squander billions of dollars a year, particularly the corrections industry. A third source for financing this re-distribution of wealth would be the dramatic increases in revenues from sales tax, an increase that would result as the poor and working people spend more disposable income and consume more products.

The other candidates, if confronted with such an idea, would likely call it "risky," or "impossible." Really, it is neither. It is an accelerated version of Keynesian economics, which have been proven to work far more effectively for maintaining economic health than the Von Hayek model so often used by the two major parties.

The other candidates may also point out that such a radical taxation plan would drive big business to other states where they could gain large tax breaks and economic incentives. This criticism is correct.

And that is why it is necessary to develop a national agenda, to promote every state passing legislation forbidding tax breaks to corporations. Such an agenda, as radical as it is, would gain popular support and would force politicians to jump on the bandwagon.

With success of such an agenda, corporations would have nowhere to run except out of the country, and in those circumstances, those corporations would have to pay huge import penalties that would make their products too expensive to purchase in the U.S. Those corporations turning their back on their responsibilities and on their country would commit financial suicide. And, in their place, other American businesses willing to pay their fair share would rise up and meet the market demands of consumers.

This combination of policies-- a radical re-distribution of taxation along with a national agenda to prohibit corporate tax breaks --would put economic and political power back into the hands of the average Ohio worker and give people the opportunity to use their gains to re-shape their own communities and their own lives. It would take power from the hands of the very wealthy, curbing the excesses and the power monopoly currently held by a small, ruling elite. It would limit the political power of the rich over the major parties and the otherwise-democratic institutions that they have corrupted with their money and their exclusive access.

LABOR POLICY: FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The Problem

"What does this monstrous engine serve for, that we call 'State'? For preventing the exploitation of the laborer by the capitalist, of the peasant by the landlord? Or for assuring us of work? For providing us food when the mother has nothing but water left for her child? No, a thousand times no..."

—Peter Kropotkin

"Never make so silly a blunder as to suppose that power resides in numbers. One good, level-headed policeman with a good club is worth ten excited, unarmed men... There is no doubt that power is latent in you; there is little doubt that it can be developed; there is no doubt that the authorities know this, and fear it, and are ready to exert as much force as is necessary to repress any signs of its development... The

authorities do not fear you as you are, they only fear what you may become...."

—Voltaire DeCleyre

"The worker... becomes an appendage of the machine, and it is only the most simple, most monotonous, and most easily-acquired knack, that is required of him... 'Yeses' of laborers, crowded into the factory, are organized like soldiers...." ("They are daily and hourly enslaved by the machine, by the over-looker, and, above all, by the individual bourgeois manufacturer himself...")

—Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx,
"The Communist Manifesto"

The situation of the American worker grows more and more dire. From 1972 to 1995, worker productivity rose 36%, creating greater and greater profits for the employers, for the large companies. At the same time, workers' real wages, their real spending power, fell by 14%. That means, for workers to receive real economic justice, they would have to have their pay increased by a 50% pay raise!

Less than 1% of the world's workers are employed by Fortune 500 companies. Those companies produce 40% of the Gross National Product. That means that a small group of workers' greater production is creating the circumstances that leave large groups of other workers unemployed. And, because those unemployed would work on the cheap, the availability of labor drives down the real wages of the employed. So, the workers' greater production actually leads to pay decreases!

More than 20% of the children in the U.S. live below the poverty line. There are 12 million homeless in the U.S. every year.

Large labor unions have been ineffective in addressing these major crises. Partly, this ineffectiveness results from major corporations manipulating governments to weaken unions and labor laws and to pass treaties like NAFTA. Partly, union leadership has been bought by the company bosses, accepting gifts and company-sponsored junkets where union leaders wine and dine with company executives. Partly, companies have made an end-run around organized labor by moving to Mexico, India, China—beyond the reach of labor unions.

If you work for a living, you are either getting sweat-shopped or down-sized. And it won't get any better unless you do something about it.

I have some ideas that you won't hear from any of the other candidates on how Ohio government can provide support for workers.

The Solution

Rise like lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you—
Ye are many—they are few.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley,
"Mask of Anarchy"

"The economic overturn, likewise, can be accomplished only if the process is carried out by proletarian mass action. The naked decrees of socialization by the highest

revolutionary authorities are by themselves empty phrases. Only the working class, through its own activity, can make the word flesh. The workers can achieve control over production, and ultimately real power, by means of a tenacious struggle with capi-

The death penalty makes Ohio a more dangerous place to live. Executions increase your chances of being victimized by a capital crime. Protection of the public demands a change in policy.

The Solution:

"Punishment is a failure. And it is a failure not because men do not hurt down and strive enough, but because they hurt down and strive at all; because in the case of those who do ill, they do ill themselves; they brutalize their own characters, and so much the more so because they are convinced that this time the brutal act is done in accord with conscience. The murderous deed of the criminal was against conscience, the torture or the murder of the criminal by the official is with conscience. Thus the conscience is diseased and perverted, and a new class of instructed men created. We have punished and punished for untold thousands of years, and we have not gotten rid of crime, we have not diminished it; let us consider then..."

—Voltaire DeCleyre

The State should end its participation in the business of killing. Through executive order, a moratorium would temporarily halt executions until a referendum could end the existence of the death penalty once and for all. Not even the worst criminals who have victimized thousands and caused untold deaths and suffering—the worst of the worst, like Bob Taft and Reginald Willkinson, and the Ohio Assembly—should be put to death for their crimes.

REVISION OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE

The Problem

"The law has no claim to men's respect..."

—Peter Kropotkin

"The Constitution is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the Judiciary, which they may twist and shape into any form they please."

—Thomas Jefferson

"The State is force. Nay, it is the silly parading of force. It does not propose to win love or to make converts; if it puts its finger into anything, it does so only in an unfriendly way; for its essence consists not in persuasion, but in command and compulsion. However much pain it may take, it cannot conceal the fact that it is the legal manner of our will, the constant negation of our liberty. Even when it commands the good, it makes this valueless by commanding it; for every command slaps liberty in the face; as soon as the good is commanded, it is transformed into evil in the eyes of the true (that is, human, by no means divine) morality, of the dignity of man, of liberty; for man's liberty, morality, and dignity consist precisely in doing the good not because he is commanded to but because he recognizes it, wills it, and loves it."

—William Bakunin

The State of Ohio has a criminal code the size of a major city phone book. The State has made it its business to tell people what to do and what not to do, and to spend millions of dollars of the people's own money making sure everyone acts that way. The State would rather spend millions forcing people to act a certain way rather than spending those millions and creating a

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

"The hour of departure has arrived, and we go our ways— I to die and you to live.
Which is better God only knows."

—Socrates

"The other factor which impels government to become even more conservative and reactionary is their inherent distrust of the individual and fear of individuality. Our political and social scheme cannot afford to tolerate the individual and his constant quest for innovation. In 'self-defense' the State therefore suppresses, persecutes, punishes and even deprives the individual of life. It is aided in this by every institution that stands for the preservation of the existing order. It resorts to every form of violence and force, and its efforts are supported by the 'moral indignation' of the majority against the heretic, the social dissenter, and the political rebel —the majority for centuries drilled in State worship, trained in discipline and obedience and subdued by the awe of authority in the home, the school, the church and the press."

—Rosa Goldman

"....(A) man was hanged in Alexandria, Va. One who witnessed the execution on that very day murdered a peddler in the Smithsonian grounds at Washington. He was tried and executed; and one who witnessed his hanging went home and on the same day murdered his wife..."

—Robert Ingersoll

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates, five percent of the people in prison are innocent. This is a conservative estimate; many experts place the figure as high as ten percent. But using the FBI's own estimate and applying it to the 44,000 prisoner population of Ohio, we likely have 2,200 innocent Ohioans behind bars. That is enough people to fill one of Ohio's larger prisons.

By the percentages, for every 100 prisoners on Ohio's Death Row, five of them are innocent.

Since the resumption of executions, one prisoner escorted into the death chamber fell to the floor and held onto the steel table leg, crying out that he was innocent and he begged out loud for Jesus to save him. He was executed. Less than a week later, a federal court reversed the decision of a lower court in his case. He was already dead.

Men and women get sentenced to death in Ohio after receiving an attorney paid half the going rate, paid up to a certain spending cap, opposed by the unlimited forces of the State and all of its agents, possibly undermined by withheld evidence or coached witnesses, convicted by juries manipulated by prosecutors who have multiple privileges to the poor defendant's every one.

In study after study, it has been concluded that the sentence of death has both a class and racial component which cannot be ignored. In the State of Ohio, where Blacks comprise eleven percent of the population but forty-three percent of the prison population, this racial dimension that guides the machinery of death must be confronted.

"We have a system called 'justice' that we permit to kill poor people. We permit it to kill Black people. When it comes to the wealthy in the same situation, we permit them to go free.

"We should never provide the State our permission to kill us when the same State we give the authority to execute us is the same State that has put our education system lower than Sweden. This is not the State we should want determining who lives and dies."

Further, the death penalty is not a deterrent. In fact, it is just the opposite. As proven time and time again, states that adopt the death penalty or states that resume executions after a long hiatus actually see a rise in capital crimes. Executions increase the capital crime rate.

cal, hard-to-hand, in every shop, with direct mass pressure, with strikes and with the creation of its own permanent representative organs.

—Rosa Luxemburg

"...As long as the working-people fold hands and pray to the gods in Washington to give them work, so long they will not get it. So long as they tramp the streets, whose stones they lay, whose filth they clean, whose sewers they dig, yet upon which they must not stand too long lest the policeman bid them 'move on'; as long as they go from factory to factory, begging for the opportunity to be a slave, receiving the insults of bosses and foremen, getting the old 'no,' the old shake of the head, in these factories they built, whose machines they wrought; so long as they consent to herd like cattle, in the cities, driven year after year, more and more, off the mortgaged land, the land they cleared, fertilized, cultivated, rendered of value; so long as they stand shivering, gazing thro' plate-glass windows at overcoats, which they made, but cannot buy, starving in the midst of food they produced but can't have; so long as they continue to do these things vaguely relying upon some power outside themselves, be it god, or priest, or politician, or employer, or charitable society, to remedy matters, so long deliverance will be delayed. When they conceive of the possibility of a complete international federation of labor, whose constituent groups shall take possession of the land, mines, factories, all the instruments of production, issue their own certificates of exchange, and, in short, conduct their own industry without regulative interference from law-makers or employers, then we may hope for the only help which counts for aught— Self-Help; the only condition which can guarantee free speech (and no paper guarantee needed)."

—Voltaireine DeCleyre

If you work for a living, your enemy is global. The capitalist manufacture keeps hopping from place to place, all over the globe, sucking more profit out of Mexican workers, then even more out of Indian or Chinese workers. He bullies his sweat-shop labor, he bullies the markets, and he bullies even the governments.

The old systems of labor organization are outdated. Large unions organized in small regional areas, confined mostly to the U.S. and Western European nations. Unlike the enemy, they have not taken on a global character. When corporate manufacturing moved to Mexico, labor did not follow. When they pulled up stakes in Mexico and moved to China, labor did not follow.

And that is the problem. The unorganized Mexican worker submits to greater exploitation and makes greater profit for the corporations than the organized American worker. The unorganized Chinese laborer provides even more profit than the sweat-shop laborer of Mexico. Clearly, the need has arisen for all workers everywhere to form a larger, international federation of labor; all workers— American, Mexican, Chinese —united in the common cause to defend the rights of all workers, rather than being divided and used against one another to drive down wages.

This can begin on regional levels. Because the largest amount of consumption occurs in the U.S., workers in key areas such as shipping and manufacture could begin widespread, general strikes designed to cripple the global economy, holding the system of commerce hostage. If labor unions opposed such actions, workers must engage in wildcat strikes, re-form their own labor unions, and shrug off the old, tired bureaucracies that have sold out the workers for decades.

The role of the government of the State of Ohio would admittedly be limited in solving the problem of labor. Wealth re-distribution plans could provide laborers more economic power to drive such an action; radical raises of minimum wage would permit non-union service-sector workers the funds to begin organizing work; a sympathetic governor could refuse demands by the corporate elite to tighten the screws and send in guns to quell labor strikes; and a policy of real labor support can help real labor organizers expand militant labor activity.

MINIMUM WAGE: A POLICY OF 'TAKING BREAD'

The Problem

"Money is a new form of slavery, distinguished from the old solely by its impersonality, by the lack of any human relation between the master and the slave."

—Leo Tolstol

"The fruitful source of crimes consists in this circumstance, one man's possessing in abundance that of which another man is destitute."

—William Godwin

"Every product can consequently be exchanged for another... If then the tailor, in return for furnishing the value of one day of his work, consumes ten times the weaver's day, it is as if the weaver gave ten days of his life for one day of the tailor's. This is precisely what occurs when a peasant pays a lawyer twelve francs for a document that it costs one hour to draw up; and this inequality, this iniquity in exchange, is the mightiest cause of poverty. Every error in commutative justice is an immolation of the laborer, a transfusion of one man's blood into another man's body."

—Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

How strange that the government tells you what your labor is worth to you. How strange that it sets the amount your employer must pay, and that amount does not provide any worker the means to survive and support a family. How strange that this minimum wage set by your government works so well to maintain huge profits for the large corporations that donate to campaigns and get government officials elected.

Part of the problem is that government officials tell you what your labor is worth by the hour, but that is not the wage of those same government officials. Ohio Governor Rob Taft makes a great deal more than minimum wage. So do the senators and representatives of the Ohio Assembly. The other part of the problem is that any increase in minimum wage seems to put the worker further behind. The reason is, when wages go up, the employers all calculate what it costs to pay out the pay increases, and they add that payroll burden to the cost of the products they sell. So, in the long-run, your pay increases and the price of everything you buy increases so that your raise gets eaten up by the cost of living. This problem is easily solved. You will not hear any other candidate talk about this problem or even entertain the solution, but it is easily solved.

The Solution

"Ask for work; if they do not give you work, ask for bread; if they do not give you bread, then take bread."

—Emma Goldman

"...Come die because they cannot eat at all. Pray tell me what these last have to lose by becoming thieves. And why shall they not become thieves? And is the action of a man who takes the necessities which have been denied to him really a criminal? Is he morally worse than the man who crawls in a cellar and dies of starvation? I think not. He is only a little more assertive..."

"But," you will say, and say truly, "to begin by taking loaves means to end by taking everything and murdering, too, very often." And in that you draw the indictment against your own system. If there is no alternative between starving and stealing (and for thousands there is none) then there is no alternative between society murdering its

re-devised so that each defendant is a challenge to the elements of the crimes charged. In this way, the burden of proof remains on the State where it belongs, and innocent people are not put into prison

Eliminating Prosecutorial Privilege and Expanding Role of Jurors

"...(R)everence that the great psychologist saw was futile, the violence that the greatest living religious teacher and the greatest dead ones advised no man to wreak, that violence is done daily and hourly by every little-hearted prosecutor who prosecutes at so much a day, by every petty judge who buys his way into office with common politicians' tricks, and deals in man's lives and liberties as a trader deals in pins... Those who have not suffered cannot understand how to punish; those who have understood will not."

—Voltaire DeCleyre

Prosecutors do not need two opportunities to prove a case to the defendant's one; prosecutors do not need two closing arguments to the defendant's one. This is akin to giving one baseball team two at-bats to the opponents' one. It is patently unfair and designed to create a predetermined outcome.

Further, courts must begin to permit jurors' questions of witnesses. This can be accomplished by asking jurors to write down the questions at the end of a witness' testimony, and submitting those questions to the judge. Outside the hearing of the jury, the judge would discuss the juror questions with both counsel, permit objections, and determine which to allow according to standard rules of evidence. The judge would then ask the questions of the witness.

It is incomprehensible that the one body of people who must deliberate and answer the question of guilt or innocence cannot themselves ask questions.

Relaxing Extradition Policies Based Upon Human Rights

"...(S)o soon as you make a declaration on paper... you will have a hundred lawyers... and they will define and define freedom out of existence. Let the guarantee... be in every man's determination to use it, and we shall have no need of paper declarations... (S)o long as the people do not care to exercise their freedom, those who wish to tyrannize will do so; for tyrants are active and ardent, and will devote themselves in the name of any number of gods, religions or otherwise, to put shackles upon sleeping men."

—Voltaire DeCleyre

All over Ohio, in any county, an innocent Ohioan may be arrested, brought before the court for a hearing that represents only a formality, and then shipped off to some other state to answer any kind of charge, in a legal system absolutely unlike the system in Ohio. It is the current policy of Ohio to arbitrarily throw anyone within its territorial borders to the proverbial wolves in other states.

We have a duty to ourselves to make assessments of our extradition policies with other states and determine which states rise to our standard of human rights and legal protections. We have a duty to Ohioans and those within the territory of our state.

Further, our rejection of standing extradition policy with any state that does not meet our standards of legal protection may act as a stimulus to force that state to re-examine their own legal system. We cannot permit any government system to put shackles upon sleeping men and women.

tion have the opportunity to withhold evidence; the prosecution would not be part of the chain of custody.

Police would become a neutral investigative body rather than a partisan group assisting one of the parties in our adversarial process.

Equal Funding for Public Defenders

"The district attorney (prosecutor) in his immense power runs the show. The defense attorney is also an officer of the court and is supposedly on the same footing as the district attorney. But the district attorney has many more privileges because he represents the established order—the powerful and the rich—who see to it that he is backed up and supported. The defense attorney merely represents the people."

—Huey P. Newton

Imagine a football league where some of the teams were governed by strict salary caps, and each player had a limited income per game. On the other hand, some of the teams have an endless supply of funding, no salary cap, and the players' salaries are top rate.

As Americans, as Ohioans, we would never permit college or professional football to be run so unfairly. Yet, we permit our justice system to be run that way. And, to make matters worse, we guarantee the common people to be put on the losing end. We give the forces of the government a blank check.

We have two viable solutions to this problem that can restore economic equity to our system of justice. The first solution is to demand that the prosecutor detail hourly billings for each case and permit an equal amount of billing for the defense, with extraordinary circumstances for either side to be requested on a case-by-case basis. The second solution is to remove all funding caps from either the prosecution or the defense, permitting both sides to log hours and demonstrate expenditures in each case.

The alternative, as we now have, is to guarantee a victory for the government and a loss for the people more than 95% of the time.

Abolishing 'Affirmative Defenses'

"...(T)he law says that when one sees or feels he is in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death, he may use whatever force necessary to defend himself. If he kills his assailant, the homicide is justified. This section of the penal code... is almost impossible for a man to defend himself under unless he is part of the oppressed class. The oppressed have no chance, for people who sit on juries always think you could have picked another means of defense. They cannot see or understand the danger..."

—Huey P. Newton

Ohio law, in practice, makes the job of many juries impossible. The instructions regarding different standards of proof that are laid upon the prosecution and the defense are nearly indecipherable for trained attorneys. As a result, juries have unwittingly thrown away the rights of not only the defendant in a given case, but of everyone. They have become a manipulated rubber stamp for the prosecutor, providing him the power to become the arbiter of who has the right to defend themselves and who does not.

Affirmative defenses must be abolished and burdens taken off of criminal defendants, the people. Instead, the law should be simplified and the defenses that are now affirmative defenses should

members, or the members disintegrating society. Let society consider its own mistakes, then: let it answer itself for all these people it has robbed and killed; let it cease its own crimes first!"

—Voltaire DeCleyre

"Therefore the only point is just that the respectful 'lower classes' should at length learn to take to themselves what they want. If they reach their hands too far for you, why, defend yourselves..."

—Max Stirner

Minimum wage would very quickly become a living wage if the governor and the senate and the house of representatives earned it. By executive order, the governor should lower his own wage and the wages of his staff to minimum wage. He should also propose that the house and senate vote to lower their own wages to minimum wage, and that they hold an open vote in both houses of the legislature—that way, every voter will know how his or her elected officials voted.

As it is, minimum wage can never be a livable wage because of the tricks that capitalists play in raising prices and forcing consumers to absorb the cost of payroll increases. However, once the governor and legislature make the same wage, they will insure that they can feed their own children and put them through college and they will enact necessary legislation to make sure minimum wage earners, themselves included, can pay the rent and the gas bill.

Further, in reference to the wealth re-distribution plan, every Ohio home would earn at least \$30,000 per year, no matter where minimum wage is set.

Finally, with reference to labor policy, every Ohioan making minimum wage has a duty to herself or himself to organize a union. Such forces demanding economic justice, combined with elected officials making minimum wage should guarantee a large increase in the quality of life of every Ohio worker.

SOCIALIZED INSURANCE: CRIMINALIZING CORPORATE GAMBLING PROFITS

The Problem

"The free opportunity of all men to pursue their economic ends has been replaced by constraints (confinement) placed upon all Americans by the large corporations which control and direct our economy. They have sought to increase their profits at the expense of the people..."

—Huey P. Newton

"Friedrich Engels once said, 'Capitalist society faces a dilemma, either to advance to socialism or a reversion to barbarism.' ...Thus we stand today, as Friedrich Engels prophesied... Either... depopulation, desolation, degeneration, a vast cemetery; or, the victory of socialism..."

—Rosa Luxemburg

The current insurance industry, as it now works, provides you with a certain coverage plan and you pay monthly premiums to maintain that coverage. In the case of car insurance, many states make it mandatory by law. On the other hand, with hospitalization or health insurance, millions of Americans who cannot afford it have the unpaid costs of their health care absorbed by everyone else, and it drives up the costs for everyone.

But what is the real nature of the insurance industry? Does the insurance company provide a public service? Or, at the heart of it, does the insurance company look first and foremost to turn a profit? What is really happening when you buy insurance?

At the base of it, the insurance industry is a multi-billion dollar gambling scheme that makes huge profits at your expense. Insurance providers are the casino, the only party guaranteed to make a profit from gambling. You and the other insured people are the gamblers, most of whom will lose money.

When you buy car insurance, for example, you are, in effect, placing a bet. You are betting that you will wreck your car. You are betting that you will wreck your car before the insurance premiums you pay month after month add up to the cost of damage you will do to your car.

That is the bet you place, and if you did not believe that you would wreck your car before your insurance premiums add up, you would not buy the insurance. Instead, you would put the money you shell out in premiums right back in your pocket. You would save hundreds of dollars a month.

But, you place that bet, and the casino—the insurance company—accepts it. On their side of the equation, they are betting that you will not wreck your car. The insurance company, just like the casino, takes in the bets of millions of people, and even if some of the gamblers do wreck their cars, the insurance company can take some of Peter's money to pay Paul, and then, in the end, they will have collected enough money from everyone to have turned a huge, huge profit.

Insurance companies are privatized casinos. They make money off of millions of gamblers. The same holds true for life insurance and health insurance and home-owners' insurance. You pay monthly premiums, installments on your bet, that you will get hit by a car and die young, or that you will get diagnosed with cancer, or that you will have an electrical accident and burn your house down. The insurance company backs your bet and the bets of millions like you, knowing most of you will turn out just fine for a long, long time, and that your survival and well-being turns them a hefty profit.

The insurance industry as it exists is one of the largest, most profitable and profit-driven industries in the world. The companies make billions of dollars and never produce a single product. Further, they do not make money by providing you a service, but by doing everything they can to deceive you of a service in those few instances when you really need them. Huge profit margins demanded by insurance companies drive up the cost of everything, from owning a home to health care. Insurance profits translate into an added tax on every service and product you purchase.

The Solution

You cannot, by law, go down to the local bookie and place a bet that you'll wreck your car before the premiums add up to a loss for you. Gambling is a violation of the Ohio Revised Code, punishable by jail time and fines. No legitimate reason exists to make an exception for insurance firms and treat them differently than the local bookie. They conduct criminal businesses at a hefty social and financial cost to Ohio citizens. The insurance-for-profit businesses should be criminally prosecuted and driven out of Ohio for good.

To replace the criminal racketeers, Ohioans should be provided something called socialized insurance. Socialized insurance would work, at first, much like the current for-profit system. You would pay premiums for coverage, and those premiums and the terms of the coverage would look very much like the current system. The difference is, you would not be paying into a company but would pay into a collective program, an insurance pool paid into by all Ohioans. Payments and claims would be the same, at first, as they are now. But there are two important differences that matter to you.

First, because this is a collective program, its goal is not to make money but to provide you the services you need. Unlike for-profit companies, the collective would not try to cheat you out of coverage or keep you from collecting on a claim based on some made-up rationale. The program would respond to your needs. You are part owner of the program.

Second, because the program is not designed to make a profit, all of the left-over money that the for-profit firms currently stick in their pockets at the end of the year would, instead,

Wolfling Civil Immunity

"I remember an instance of a man... convicted of murder in Michigan. He had served twenty-seven years... when the real murderer, dying, confessed. And the State pardoned that innocent man! Because it was the quickest legal way to let him out! I hope he has been able to pardon the State..."

—Voltaireine McLeyre

During the course of trials, the court officials, judges especially, have a great deal of discretion when it comes to issues of law. Sometimes, the case law and precedent and statute are all very clear, very fixed and set. But, at other times, the judge must determine the correct course of action based upon a whole litany of very subjective and conceptual conditions. What may be appropriate in one case may be excluded in a second, depending upon circumstances, and rarely will higher courts meddle in a lower court's discretionary rulings.

Those discretionary rulings can add up. They can tip the balance on the scales and deprive an innocent person of his or her freedom. In these situations, it is quite difficult for a person to prove the court official engaged in wrongdoing.

However, all too often, those same judges become... comfortable and sometimes exceed the bounds of their discretion and make it obvious, even to judges who want to look the other way, that the conduct of a trial was unfair. In such circumstances, the judge who has sent an innocent person to prison should not be permitted to claim immunity from civil action. The judge should be subject to lawsuits just as doctors or car mechanics can be sued.

Far more common, prosecutors withhold evidence or manufacture evidence in order to secure a conviction. In the hundreds of cases reviewed by the Chicago Tribune where prosecutors engaged in misconduct and convicted innocent people, not one prosecutor was ever brought up on charges. The threat of criminal penalties is no threat at all; the only deterrent to prevent such misconduct is to revoke immunity and permit innocent people wronged by prosecutorial misconduct to bring civil actions against the prosecutors.

When public officials are made to pay for their criminal behavior the way anyone else would be made to pay under the same circumstances, they will stop committing crimes against justice in the name of the people of Ohio.

Using Magistrates to Prevent Misconduct

"It is safe to say that governments have committed far more crimes than they have prevented."

—Robert Ingersoll

Ohio Common Pleas Courts now use magistrates to conduct routine affairs and administrative work. Magistrates are not elected judges, but are like referees appointed by judges to assist the judge and handle smaller matters, permitting the judge to concentrate on larger affairs like trials. These magistrates could serve an additional purpose if their authority was extended. In French courts, a court official similar to a magistrate supervises police investigations. Police turn over evidence to the magistrate, and the magistrate directs the police to look into other areas or to interview potential suspects. The magistrate also provides police with necessary warrants, since he or she is intimately familiar with the case and can make an immediate assessment on the legality of a search.

If Ohio were to adopt such a system, police would turn over evidence to a court magistrate rather than turning it over to the prosecution. The magistrate would then provide both the defense and prosecution access to the evidence. At no time, under this system, would the prosecu-

the wealthy and connected and the politically savvy. The rest of us are fodder for the machinery of justice.

If being fodder for the justice system of the State of Ohio was not enough, the state has entered into agreement with all of the other states of the United States, guaranteeing your extradition to those states for criminal charges that they may bring against you. Extradition hearings are now nothing but a formality, and false information is routinely provided to secure extradition of people from state to state. An excellent example of some of the most egregious and dishonest behavior in extradition processes involves the case of Leonard Peltier.

The State of Ohio will transfer you to the custody of another state to face charges, regardless of that state's history or reputation for using the justice system as a political tool; despite differences in the law between that state and the State of Ohio; despite the conditions of confinement you may face in that other state.

Retired Cleveland auto worker John Benjamin was extradited to Israel, proof of his innocence buried by U.S. attorneys, under the false claim that he was a Nazi war criminal; he spent years on Death Row in Israel before proof of misconduct arose.

Retired auto workers should not be used as political pawns and brutalized in prison when they are known to be innocent.

All of these circumstances—judges' and prosecutors' immunity, widespread prosecutorial misconduct, half-rate defenses and spending caps that hinder the defense, putting burdens of proof on the defendants, providing the State an additional chance to prove its case and an additional closing argument, providing no process for juror questions, and blank-check extradition of Ohioans to other states—must change.

The Solution

"But who are the bad men among us? ... (I) f by the men from whom the State must protect us we mean the criminals, then we know that they are not special creatures like the wolf among sheep, but just such men as all of us, who like committing crimes as little as we do; we know that the activity of governments with their cruel forms of punishment, which do not correspond to the present stage of morality, their prisons, tortures, gallows, gullotines, contributes more to the barbarizing of the people than to their culture, and hence rather to the multiplication than to the diminution of such criminals."

—Leo Tolstoy

"The State is itself the most gigantic criminal extant. It manufactures criminals much faster than it punishes them."

—Benjamin Tucker

"The individual's violence is called crime, and only by crime does he break the State's authority when he opines that the State is not above him, but he above the State."

—Max Stirner

"We have a system of laws and courts that have further restricted the rights of people, that have limited the role of the people and now treats them as objects to be processed. At the same time, the system of laws and courts has gathered to itself more and more power. All of the solutions designed to reform the system of justice must address this unnecessary shift of power from the people to the government. Both structural and procedural changes are required, and should be enacted through legislation or executive order where appropriate.

be put back into your pocket. The money that the program did not pay out in claims would be divided up according to how much everyone paid in, and the money would be returned either through a rebate check in one lump sum or else the money could be put toward the cost of your premiums. Over time, the cost of insurance would go down drastically.

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Also, in Ohio, the cost of everything else would gradually go down. Doctors' premiums for malpractice insurance would go down and the cost of health care in Ohio, compared to other states where doctors raise their rates to absorb sky-rocketing costs of insurance, would remain low. The cost of shipping would decrease, as truckers' insurance costs would go down. The general cost of living would go down.

And millions and millions of dollars in savings would be returned to the people every year, money currently going into the deep pockets of insurance racketeers that pay big money to politicians and their campaigns.

None of the other four candidates for governor will utter a word about socialized insurance. They have no intention of doing what is best for the people of Ohio at the expense of biting the hand that feeds them.

HEALTH: SOCIALIZED MEDICINE AND ANTI-PATENT PHARMACEUTICALS

The Problem

One of the most important indicators of a nation's health is its infant mortality rate. This measures how many children die before their first birthday, per every thousand live births. The infant mortality rate for the U.S. is 7.0. For Blacks in the U.S., the infant mortality rate is 14.3, giving African Americans more than twice the chance of dying before their first birthday.

To make a comparison, the infant mortality rate in Cuba is 5.9.

Why is it we cannot compete with a poor island country that has been economically embattled for half a century? Why is Cuba more capable of maintaining the health of its people than the U.S.?

There are a few parts to this problem. First, the insurance companies that do not provide any kind of care maintain a stranglehold on the hospitals and institutions that do. Insurance companies behave like a bureaucratic protection racket that takes their cut from every medical transaction. This part of the problem can be addressed with socialized insurance, as already discussed.

Second, there exists a massive inequality with regard to income and access in this country. The haves really have, and the have-nots really, really have not. In situations of vast inequality, you normally find the poor segments of a population having a drastically higher infant mortality rate, a lower life expectancy, and any number of illnesses and health problems. So, ultimately, the maldistribution of wealth kills. This part of the problem can be addressed with the wealth re-distribution plan, as already discussed.

Third, pharmaceutical companies gouge you. They make medicines that may only cost pennies per pill to make, but charge tens and hundreds of dollars for them, driving up the cost of health care for everyone. Further, the pharmaceutical companies have abandoned their original, commendable purpose of saving lives and are now driven by profits. As a result, one pharmaceutical firm that manufactured a cure for sleeping sickness—a disease that kills thousands of sub-Saharan Africans each year—stopped producing the drug because the poor and destitute African villagers could not afford to buy it. Instead, pharmaceutical companies produce expensive designer drugs like Viagra.

As sick and cynical as it is, there now exists a correlation between the deaths of poor African villagers and the instances of wealthy Americans getting drug-induced erections.

To make matters worse, pharmaceutical companies refused to lower prices and provide the necessary life-saving AIDS drugs to fight the AIDS pandemic that kills millions a year. The pharma-

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cetical companies feared that they would lose their profit margins everywhere if everyone found out that they were so drastically marking up the prices of the drugs. As a result, millions were left without life-saving drugs.

The poor of the world, not resigned to simply die quietly, came up with a solution. In South Africa and Brazil, scientists assisted in the manufacture of "knock-off" drugs, drugs that have the same qualities as those produced by the U.S. pharmaceutical companies. The difference is, they have made these drugs without permission of the U.S. pharmaceutical firms that hold the patents. For that reason alone—intellectual property rights—the drugs are illegal. In fact, at one point, U.S. firms tried to force the Brazilian and South African drug manufacturers to stop production, but an unanticipated public outcry over their greed shamed them into letting the other companies continue to produce the knock-off drugs.

These pharmaceutical companies are the last of the three major problems impacting health care.

The Solution

Socialized medicine with socialized insurance and a radical wealth re-distribution plan would tackle the problems of insurance costs and economic inequality that contribute to the problem of health care. The solution to the problem of pharmaceutical greed finds a solution in Brazil and South Africa.

As pointed out in later policy positions, Ohio should develop international trade agreements independent of the U.S., just as Louisiana has negotiated a trade agreement with Cuba. Part of this international trade between foreign nations and the State of Ohio should be importing knock-off drugs from Brazil and South Africa.

These drugs would be made available, just as generic drugs are now, as an option to the more expensive versions marketed by the patent holders. No one would be forced to take the knock-off drugs, nor would anyone be "tricked" into purchasing the knock-off drugs when believing they are buying the drugs produced by the patent holders.

Keep in mind, these drugs have been used for years and years elsewhere. They are safe and effective. They are simply the pirated product put out by the "vultures" of the pharmaceutical world. Particularly for HIV infected persons, these cheaper drugs could save a great deal of money and provide a much higher quality of life. Reliance on these drugs would vastly lower the costs of health care generally, and would likely have the effect of forcing the major pharmaceutical companies to lower drug prices in order to compete and retain a portion of the profits lost to knock-off drug companies overseas.

This combination of solutions—socialized medicine and socialized insurance, radical wealth re-distribution, and importation of non-patented drugs from Brazil and South Africa—should greatly cut the costs of medical care and make it affordable for all Ohioans to receive the highest quality care at the lowest prices. As the results of such changes would come into effect, we may even see that the State of Ohio, in terms of health and well-being, can compete with Socialist Cuba.

EDUCATION REFORM: FUNDING SCHOOLS INSTEAD OF PRISONS

The Problem

"It was the intention of the revolutionists to establish a system of common education, which should make the teaching of history one of its principle branches; not with the intent of burdening the memories of our youth with the dates of battles or the speeches of generals, nor to make the Boston Tea Party Irishmen the one sacrosanct mob in all of history, to be revered but never on any account to be imitated, but with the intent that every American should know to what conditions the masses of people had been brought by the operation of certain institutions, by what means they had wronged out their liberties, and how those liberties had again and again been filched from them by the use

on verdicts where the jury did not receive all of the information, where important proof was withheld even from the criminal defense attorney.

Criminal defendants, innocent and guilty alike, often come from poor communities and the accused cannot afford the same attorneys that the wealthy employ. They do not get the best team to prove their innocence. Instead, they get an over-worked public defender who, in most jurisdictions, can only bill the state for half of the going hourly rate of defense attorneys. So, those who represent the poor must work for half price. Naturally, we would expect, they do half the work. And that is what the court expects of them too; the court expects them to do half the work and the outcome is predictable.

In Ohio, in 1991, the cost for a successful murder defense averaged \$100,000. Fifteen years later, it is likely much higher. If this is out of your price range, then you get bargain basement defense, and your chances of vindication when going to trial is less than 30%, regardless of guilt or innocence.

While the State, with its infinite number of police investigators, its crime lab, its experts in every field, and its team of prosecutors with an unlimited amount of funding to spend on your prosecution arrays itself for its attack upon you, your half-price defense counsel has a maximum cap to spend. Your counsel can spend a few thousand dollars, depending on the limit from county to county. The attorney can work beyond that limit, of course, and risk paying out of pocket for hours of investigation if, months and years down the road, the court does not grant extraordinary fees to cover the expenses.

If the spending cap allows the attorney forty hours of investigation and motions and hearings, and if proof of your innocence would require forty-one hours of investigation, you can likely kiss your loved-ones good-bye.

Some may defend the process and say that the burden of proof is upon the State, and therefore the burden of collecting evidence is on the State, and the defense does not need greater funds because the defense has no burden of proof. However, in Ohio, this is not the case.

In the State of Ohio, the defendant has a burden of proof if he or she presents what is called "an affirmative defense." Self-defense is an affirmative defense. You must prove, with a preponderance of the evidence, that you defended yourself rather than having been the aggressor. If you fail, despite actual innocence, you go to prison. An alibi defense is an affirmative defense; you must prove you were somewhere else when the crime occurred. If you fail, despite actual evidence, you go to prison. The defenses of necessity or of duress or of insanity are affirmative defenses. The burden of proof is on the defendants.

So, you—the citizen, the person who must be afforded protections to keep the government from committing wrongs against you—have the burden of proof and bargain-basement funding for your counsel, while the unlimited State with its battalions of police investigators and prosecutors and experts prepares for battle against you.

To make matters worse, the trial process in Ohio does not occur as most people believe from watching court dramas on television. In Ohio courts, the prosecution presents its case, followed by the defense. When the defense rests, counsel does not begin closing arguments. Instead, the prosecution calls more witnesses, possibly incredible witnesses whose stories could be proven false if the defense could call subsequent witnesses to expose the testimony as a fraud. Furthermore, the prosecution gets the last word. Once the prosecution calls these "rebuttal witnesses," the case goes to closing arguments. So, the prosecution gets the first and last word. In closing arguments, the prosecutor also gets the first word, the defense attorney speaks, and the prosecutor gets the last word. His final delivery to the jury goes unchallenged.

The jurors, whose job it is to weigh the evidence and determine guilt or innocence, do not have any method for asking questions or submitting questions to the court. They passively receive whatever the attorneys present.

More than 97% of cases end in a plea agreement because poor people caught into the system know they have no chance of vindication and they simply surrender under the best terms they can broker. Of the less-than-30% of cases that actually go to trial, more than 97% of them end in conviction. This means, by the odds, once you encounter the criminal justice system, you have less than a 1% chance of getting away without a conviction. That 1% likely represents

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exist in such numbers? 'What is the real underlying economic motive of crime and the official definition of types of offenders or victims? The people must learn that when one offends the totalitarian state, it is patently not an offense against the people of that state, but an assault on the privilege of the privileged few."

—George Jackson

"The laws exist to defend those who possess property. They protect the possessors who should share but who do not."

— Huey P. Newton

"Abolish the law—that is, abolish privilege, —and crime will abolish itself."

—Voltaire DeCleyre

People believe our justice system is not perfect but it is the best we have. This sentiment has become quite popular. Everyone seems to say it. But upon closer inspection, we are left to wonder if it is really true.

"When someone tells you our justice system is the best we've got, you can ask—what about the system in Belgium? Is ours better than Belgium? What about the Swiss system? Or the French? Ask them to compare and contrast the components of our system of justice compared to others. You will likely find that the person does not know anything about other systems of justice.

Then, on closer inspection, ask the person when they last observed a trial and what they understood about what happened. Likely, they have never simply observed a trial. Most Americans have not. We go to the courthouse when we have to get a marriage license or conduct some kind of business. We do not go to the courthouse in order to supervise our government conducting its business.

The truth is, we have permitted the system of justice to get away from us. The courts, the trials, the officers and their offices are right in our communities. We give elected officials the authority, the power to have us thrown into prison, to have us yanked out of our homes and our jobs and our lives, separated from family and friends, put on display before the world and accused of a crime; we give politicians the authority and power to throw us into prison or, even worse, order us strapped to a table while poison is injected into our veins to kill us. Once we hand over the key to our lives, once we give these politicians the power to play God, we go back to our busy lives and never once look back over our shoulders to see how this power to play God is being used in our names.

"How do the gods behave?"

Judges and prosecutors and other court officials have immunity from any civil liability. That means that no matter what they do to you in the courtroom, no matter how vindictive, how illegal, how outrageous—you cannot take a dime from their pocket. They will never suffer any personal loss or financial injury for using their office and their power as a weapon against you.

They can be criminally prosecuted, certainly, but that criminal prosecution would require a whole different burden of proof and the requirements are, purposely, so difficult that it makes criminal prosecution almost impossible. Even in an air-tight case where you could meet that burden of proof, a prosecutor will not likely bring criminal charges against his golf partner.

So, the only real avenue of pursuing court officials who wrong you, suing them and making them pay out of their pocket, is prohibited. Judges and prosecutors enter the courtroom knowing they can do whatever they want and they will not personally pay a dime for it.

With no penalty, with no check on their power, misconduct runs rampant. As a Chicago Tribune investigation uncovered, police and prosecutors routinely withhold evidence. They win cases by burying the evidence of a citizen's innocence. In some cases, people were executed based

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of governmental force, fraud, and privilege. Not to breed security, lawlessness, complacent indolence, passive acquiescence in the acts of a government protected by labels of "home-made," but to breed a wakeful jealousy, a never-ending watchfulness of rulers, a determination to squelch every attempt of those entrusted with power to encroach upon the sphere of individual action—this was the prime motive of the revolution in endeavoring to provide for a common education."

—Voltaire DeCleyre

"The clash of cultures in the classroom is essentially a class war, a socio-economic and racial warfare being waged on the battleground of our schools, with middle-class aspiring teachers provided with a powerful arsenal of half-truths, prejudices, and rationalizations, arrayed against hopelessly outclassed working-class youngsters. This is an uneven balance, particularly since, like most battles, it comes under the guise of righteousness."

—Kenneth Clark

"During those long years in the Oakland public schools, I did not have one teacher who taught me anything relevant to my own life or experience. Not one instructor ever awoke in me a desire to learn more or question or explore the worlds of literature, science and history. All they did was try to rob me of the sense of my own uniqueness and worth, and in the process they nearly killed my urge to inquire...."

—Huey P. Newton

The public education system in the United States has crumbled. We have permitted our education system to fall into such abysmal disrepair that radical changes now become necessary to salvage it. Furthermore, the current national trend takes the education system in the exactly wrong direction.

Cuba has the highest literacy rate in the western hemisphere, not the U.S. The small island of Cuba, under economic attack for half a century, outshines the U.S. in every category related to primary education. In terms of the rest of the world, there are third-world nations that have passed the U.S. in education. The U.S. can no longer compete with France and Belgium, but must compete instead with Rwanda in educational achievement.

To make matters worse, Ohio ranks in the lowest quarter of the states of the U.S. The majority of other states have better educational systems, far surpassing Ohio. And, to add insult to injury, with all of the universities in Ohio, people in other states send their kids to get the college degrees that Ohio kids are not prepared to receive. Ohio must "import" thousands of students from outside the state to meet enrollment at universities our own kids cannot attend. For Ohio, there are five primary factors that contribute to this problem, none of which will ever be addressed by the other four candidates running for governor.

First, the funding is missing. Time and again, we have been told that we cannot simply throw money at the problem, and this is true. However, you must throw some money at the problem.

Instead, Ohio's political leaders have cut funding time and again. To make matters worse, the Ohio Supreme Court has ordered the Ohio Assembly to allocate more funds to education, as it decided in an opinion that the state is constitutionally bound to provide equal education to all Ohio students.

Ohio Governor Bob Taft and both houses of the legislature have simply ignored the Ohio Supreme Court time and time again. They don't care about the education of poor and working class kids in Ohio.

You may recall that the issue of funding was supposedly solved years ago by the Ohio Lottery. Revenues from the lottery, we were told, would go directly into the education budget. This happened—sort of. Lottery revenues do go into the education budget, but then the legislature

pulls out the funds that were earmarked for education and they spend those funds elsewhere. So, in the final analysis, the lottery funding replaces education funding; it does not get added to the education funding.

This lack of funding exacerbates and contributes to all of the other factors that make up our education problem.

Second, we have become stuck on the same old, tired modes of learning and we have not incorporated proven learning components like cooperative learning and other methods that seem to reinforce each other and contribute to a deeper and fuller and more meaningful education. These newer components cannot be worked into the curriculum because those kinds of decisions happen at a higher level than the teacher, and those administrators are, most likely, the older and wiser educators who have been in the profession of teaching for a long time, relying upon their own backgrounds and experiences. They likely have not had any experience with newer modes of educating, and because there is no funding for lifelong training of teachers and administrators, they will not encounter those ideas.

As a result, our kids today are being taught within the framework of a curriculum that applied in the 1970s and 1980s when the school board members and administrators went through college.

This is all the more striking when you consider that the "half-life" of academic knowledge in the field of educational psychology—is roughly five years. Five years! This means a teacher learn in college becomes obsolete—roughly five years. Five years! This means a teacher out of college for five years relies on outdated information that does not apply half of the time, and he or she only has half of the academic knowledge being taught to new teachers. So, when our children in 2006 are being taught according to a curriculum that applied in the 1970s and 1980s when the school board members learned their trade, our children are already put at a disadvantage.

The lack of funding, the lack of lifelong learning for teachers and administrators, creates this dilemma.

Third, the lack of funding contributes to the trend of shrinking the curriculum. Music, art, the number of foreign languages available, physical education, and a variety of elective courses get chopped from the standard curriculum because budgets do not provide for them. At first glance this may seem like a minor inconvenience. It is not. It is a major source of our education system's failure.

Art and music require a different kind of thinking than math and English. Art and math have been shown to form new neural pathways in the brains of students, and those new neural pathways, actual changes to the function of the brain, increase those students' abilities in math and English. Kids will do better in the core classes if they learn to paint or play the piano. Children who are fortunate to attend schools with art programs and music programs have a distinct advantage over children who do not.

In many countries, multiple languages are taught in grade school, the earliest time for kids to pick up languages. That language acquisition early on seems to provide benefits in other learning later in life.

The shrinking curriculum is a process of foreclosing on our children's futures and amputating part of their learning potential.

Fourth, class sizes in the U.S. average over 30 students per classroom. Again, due in part to funding problems, classes get packed a little tighter and more students must share the same teacher. As a result, students get less individualized attention. Students who begin to fall behind become frustrated and become behavior problems. Those behavior problems disrupt the rest of the class and prevent everyone from learning. It becomes a downward spiral.

Part of the success of the Cuban educational program is that it has 18 students per classroom on average. Cuban students get roughly twice the personal attention from teachers as kids in the U.S.

Fifth, the lack of funding contributes to the state relying upon federal grants. Those grants, however, come with pre-conditions that must be met. As a result, public schools in Ohio must meet the demands of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. when educating their students; these are students that those bureaucrats have never met. Ohio schools must apply a one-size-fits-all

"In the fight for complete liberation of the oppressed, people rely first of all on their own struggle... The people who have triumphed in their own revolution should help those still struggling for liberation."

—Mao Ze Dong

Affirmative Action has become a bad word. It represents to the majority of the white working class an effort to steal their jobs and give them to underqualified minorities. The specter of Affirmative Action dredges up racial hostility and jealousy toward good-paying jobs.

The fact is, Affirmative Action is just the opposite. I look at all available data indicates that minorities and women are over-represented in unemployment and under-employment. That means, ultimately, that white men have stolen their jobs and have kept those stolen jobs for decades. Affirmative Action is an effort to give jobs to those people whose jobs have been stolen and never surrendered.

The resentment of white male workers is understandable, but it is misplaced. The white male worker expresses animosity toward the other workers taking "his" job. The real enemy in all of this, the enemy that should rightfully receive the brunt of all of the workers' resentment, is the monopoly capitalist whose system does not provide productive employment for everyone. Black and white workers, male and female, should not have to compete for a limited number of decent-paying jobs. Corporations should not artificially create unemployment in order to maintain a reserve of workers that, due to the under-abundance of jobs, keeps the wages down.

This should no longer be a problem for Ohio workers, if this Affirmative Action plan is implemented along with the wealth re-distribution plan, favorable labor policy, and socialized health and insurance programs to keep the workers' cost of living down.

Another argument often posed by corporations is that, due to the educational inequalities and the lack of minority applicants in certain specialized and leadership positions, it is impossible to fill those positions with anyone other than white men. This excuse was used by the military to explain a lack of Black fighter pilots; the solution was to recruit Blacks for those positions, provide incentives, and train them.

How ironic that corporations stung and say they have no Black talent to put in the board room when the Black employees are relegated to janitorial staff and the mail room.

By the anti-discrimination plan that should be implemented in Ohio, enforced for any company with more than one hundred employees in Ohio or conducting business with Ohio or through Ohio (via transport on Ohio state routes and highways), each company must hire and promote to each level of its organization a demographic representation of the greater community. The companies would have five years in which to meet incremental goals. Failure to meet them would result in fines and civil actions against the companies until they comply.

Their excuse would not apply. They would have five years to find smart, qualified minorities and women to fill positions.

After a second generation of such a policy, with wealth re-distribution and socialized health and insurance, combined with a properly and effectively-funded educational system that would not disadvantage anyone, no racial or gender group would be over-represented in any category and, likely, the quality of life index would indicate that Ohio would be well above the average for the U.S.

Ohio would bridge the gender and racial divides that current plague this country.

JUSTICE REFORM: ABOLITION OF PRIVILEGE FOR THE PRIVILEGED FEW

The Problem

"The hypocrisy of American fascist forces it to conceal its attack on political offenders by the legal fiction of conspiracy laws and highly sophisticated frame-ups. The masses must be taught to understand the true function of prisons. Why do they

freedom, either of thought, speech, or action, is equally a mockery."

—Voltaireine DeClyre

"I myself am a free man only so far as I recognize the humanity and liberty of all men who surround me. In respecting their humanity I respect my own. A cannibal, who treats his prisoner as a wild beast, is himself not a man, but a beast. A slaveholder is not a man, but a master."

—Kibbil Bokunin

"It is power that corrupts both master and slave and it makes no difference whether the power is wielded by an autocrat, by parliament or Soviets. More pernicious than the power of a dictator is that of a class; the most terrible—the tyranny of the majority."

—Emma Goldman

In the American system of capital, white male land-owners had a headstart on everyone else. They had a chance to develop their wealth and make it work for them for hundreds of years before any other segment had any opportunity to pose a competitive threat. This amounts to providing one player in the game of monopoly to have three or four trips around the board before everyone else, buying any property he wishes, and building hotels before the other players roll the dice. Fair? No, but what is done cannot be undone. The advantage to those who arrived first, gained profits through theft of land and through kidnapping free labor forces cannot be reversed.

However, we can prevent further advantage to the wealthy group and further disadvantage to the groups victimized in the first instance. We can bridge the racial and gender gaps that exist in the government and corporate worlds.

The problem is, as social sciences have proven time and again, we have a tendency to trust and relate to people most like ourselves. If I were, for example, a Chinese woman, a Buddhist, a Marxist, with a large family, I would tend to gravitate toward others who met those descriptions. I would tend to trust a Chinese Buddhist woman reading the "Communist Manifesto" than I would a white male reading "The Daily Standard." On a conscious and unconscious level, we identify with people like ourselves.

Rich, conservative, older white men run corporations. They do the hiring. Is it any surprise they tend to hire conservative white men who think and look like themselves? Even when overt and purposeful racism or sexism is not a factor, conservative white men will simply feel better about the conservative white male candidate than about others.

This creates a new trend that passes the legacy of power and wealth from one group of white men to the next, all while poverty, underemployment, unemployment, and other social ills impact minority and female gender people at a much higher rate than their representation demographically. Left to their own devices, corporate America will continue the same hiring and promotion practices that have led to the under-representation of women and minorities. This must change.

The Solution

"...Black people in general have been the victims rather than the recipients of bourgeois justice..."

—Angela Y. Davis

"I have made up my mind, wherever I shall go I shall always go as a man and not a slave... firmly and constantly endeavoring to assert my equal right as a man and a brother."

—Frederick Douglass

instructional and testing system to educate Ohio students who may not be best served by that particular approach. But, in order to get the federal money, the schools must sacrifice control over the content and style of education to some centralized authority that may or may not know what they are doing.

So, as a final result, this is the Ohio school system. It is under-funded in contradiction to the mandate of the Ohio Supreme Court and despite the Ohio Lottery. It is under the operation of administrators applying techniques from the 1970s and 1990s, with half of the curriculum left on the chopping room floor. The students are crammed in classrooms, deprived of individual attention, and taught garbage—in garbage-out memorization so they can pass a federal test and keep the school financially afloat.

That is why Ohio students cannot compete with students from third-world countries like Rwanda.

The Solution

"To inculcate this proud spirit of supremacy of the people over their governors was to be the purpose of public education! Pick up today any common school history, and see how much of this spirit you will find therein. On the contrary, from cover to cover you will find nothing but the cheapest sort of patriotism, the inculcation of the most unquestioning acquiescence in the deeds of government, a lullaby of rest, security, confidence—the doctrine that the law can do no wrong, a Te Deum in praise of the continuous encroachments of the powers of the general government upon the reserved rights of the States, shameless falsification of all acts of rebellion, to put the government in the right and the rebels in the wrong, pyrotechnic glorifications of union, power, and force, and a complete ignoring of the essential liberties to maintain which was the purpose of the revolutionists..."

—Voltaireine DeClyre

"My high school diploma was a farce. When my friends and I graduated we were ill-equipped to function in society, except at the bottom, even though the system said we were educated. Maybe they knew what they were doing, preparing us for the trash heaps of society, where we would have to work long hours for low wages. They never realized how much they had actually educated me by teaching the necessity of resistance and the dignity of defiance. I was on my way to becoming a revolutionary..."

—Riley P. Newton

"...We must not only have a correct line and correct policies but must train and bring up millions of successors who will carry on the cause of proletarian revolution... (From our highest organizations down to the grassroots, we must everywhere give constant attention to the training and upbringing of successors to the revolutionary cause."

—Yao Ze Dong

People rarely see the connection between schools and prisons. When our political leaders each compete to get "tougher" on crime than the last guy, and they pound a shoe on the podium and work us into a frenzy, we do not stop to think about the cost in terms of dollars or in terms of social problems. We simply accept that our political leaders know best and they would not mislead us.

For decades, we have been misled.

The perfect illustration of how prisons and schools are related comes from the spending trends in California as it built its prison system. The increases in the prison budget, year after year, nearly mirrored—to the dollar—the decreases in budgeting for education.

Ohio, in the 1990s, followed that same trend and built prison after prison to hold more than

forty thousand prisoners. Contractors like former Governor George Volinovich's brother-in-law benefited from this prison boom. Most Ottomans did not. We are now paying for those decisions.

We now have a state budget lopsided toward prisons, where we spend more money on punishing offenders who have fallen between the cracks of our social order than we spend in support of the social order itself. We spend more money locking up the former students from the last generation who never learned how to read than we spend teaching this generation to read. We create our own next problem.

All five of the factors that contribute to the failure of our schools are related to the lack of funding. That means we must find out where the money went that we should have put into the schools and take it back. This can be done. As demonstrated in my prison reform policy, featured later in this collection, literally billions of dollars in unnecessary spending can be diverted from the prison complex to education without increasing the rate of crime, without endangering the people of Ohio.

Our outdated and overpriced prison complex is the primary source of added funding for education. The secondary source of education funding would come from the Ohio Lottery. The lottery would be reformed so that revenues would be added to the funding designated by the Ohio Assembly, as the people of Ohio originally believed would happen when the lottery was instituted.

There is the way to apply that funding in education when it becomes available:

First, funds must be dedicated to inner-city schools and to poorer districts that have fallen behind in the last decade, ignored by the governor and the legislature as the Ohio Supreme Court ordered again and again that more funding must be provided. This will be no easy task, as the very school structures must be upgraded to accommodate new technologies (i.e., the installation of air conditioning units into computer labs to keep the computers from overheating).

Second, funds must be allocated for school administrators and teachers to continue lifelong learning, getting exposed to new ideas and new instructional modes that will provide our students with the best opportunities to learn. Beyond the "style" or method of teaching, this will also impact administrators' decisions on the content of the curriculum to be taught, upgraded and improved from year to year. Our children will be learning within a framework that applies in 2006 instead of 1990.

Third, once schools all meet the current level of the "richer" schools, and once we have given administrators and teachers the chance to learn the most modern research on the process of educating, we must expand the curriculum at each and every school. Art and music and foreign languages as early as grade school should become the standard norm. We will permit our children to develop new ways of learning and thinking at an early age, and that expanded cognition will serve them later on in their educations. Our investment to teach sculpting or the trumpet to students in second grade will reap rewards when they take algebra in seventh grade.

Fourth, we begin the gradual striding of the class size. As we upgrade schools and can accommodate more students, and as we train more teachers in lifelong learning and they become proficient in new methods and an expanded curriculum, Ohio's schools will draw talented and ambitious teachers who want to teach in a system where they are appreciated and provided the tools to do their work. Within a decade's time, it should be the norm that Ohio will maintain an average of 18 students per classroom and will rank among the highest in educational quality in the United States.

Fifth, because of the availability of funding from within the state budget, the school system would have the freedom to divorce itself from any preconditions imposed by the federal government if those preconditions are not in the best interests of the students. Ohio schools would no longer be slaves to the one-size-fits-all garbage-in garbage-out system of teaching to a standardized federal test. Students would become free to learn in a vibrant and open atmosphere, rather than pressured to memorize data for a test that determines the financial life of the school.

This combination of steps is the only approach to saving Ohio's schools. It all begins by making a real investment in education and that can only be done by eliminating costly and unproductive spending. The largest part of that spending is in the prison system. This is the only

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"...[T]he essence of all slavery consists in drawing the benefit of another's labor-force by compulsion, and it is quite immaterial whether the drawing of this benefit is founded upon property in the slave or property in the money which is indispensable to the other man."

—Leo Tolstoy

"Where there is no justice there can be no secure peace...."

—Aung San Suu Kyi

After World War II, the German government paid reparations to survivors of the Nazi work camps, creating an international precedent for compensating victims of occupation and enslavement.

Nationally, the U.S. paid reparations to descendants and survivors of Japanese internment camps. On a federal and international level, there exists legal precedent for reparations, both to victims of slavery and occupation, and to their descendants.

In the cases of Native Americans and descendants of African slaves, the clear legal basis for reparations becomes even clearer when viewed in light of civil and contract law, as both groups were promised compensation that they never received. In the case of Native Americans, they never received payment for lands essentially stolen from them; in the case of descendants of freed slaves, the emancipated slaves never received promised compensation in the form of forty acres and a mule to each.

Decades and centuries later, both groups suffer from the resulting injustice and inequality and lack of opportunity to which these economic deficits greatly contributed.

Native Americans should be awarded the compensation for mineral rights as ordered by the federal courts. They should, in addition, receive compensation for the promised payments for land sold to the U.S. This should be awarded with compounded interest from the time of the sales until the date of payment. All of these funds should be divided equally among Native Americans rather than being handled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or some other committee or body set up to rob the vast majority of the people.

Descendants of African slaves should be awarded the value of promised compensation that was never paid to the freed slaves. To calculate a just amount, experts in this era of history should determine, using available census documents, the number of slaves freed, then experts must calculate, based on that number of slaves, what acreage would have likely been provided to those freed slaves, with a calculation of the value of that land and the value of the mules that would have been provided. Interest for that sum must then be calculated to arrive at a final total amount, which would be billed to businesses and corporations that have amassed their fortunes from the slave trade, with the remainder coming from the U.S. treasury, divided equally and paid to each descendant of slaves.

Because this is a national issue, support for such a plan must be developed and a consensus established at national governor's conferences. Reparations must become a central focus of national governor's conferences' agendas.

The other half of the solution to this problem involves the implementation of Affirmative Action with strict quotas.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: CREATING MATERIAL CONDITIONS FOR EQUALITY

The Problem.

"Unless the material conditions for equality exist, it is worse than mockery to pronounce men equal. And unless there is equality (and by equality I mean equal chances for everyone to make the most of himself) unless, I say, these equal chances exist,

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European colonization of America led to the full-scale slaughter of Native Americans, and those who agreed to go to the reservations did so as the result of treaties that promised compensation which those people never received. For a century afterward, their children were stolen from them and placed into "residential schools" where they were provided a starvation diet, robbed of their culture and religion, often molested, and—at least half of the time—infected with preventable diseases from the filthy conditions and killed. Those who survived were psychologically crippled by the experience.

More and more Native American land, even in the twentieth century, was stolen or otherwise obtained through dubious deals with Indian representatives without legitimate authority to make the deals. In this way, the U.S. has gained access to lands with resources such as uranium, all without having to pay Native Americans the value of the land or the mineral rights.

After decades of stalling, a federal court finally ruled in favor of Native Americans and ordered payment of millions and millions of dollars. The president responded that payment of those funds would constitute a grave threat to the U.S., as it would endanger the U.S. economy. This compensation only covered mineral rights, not all of the land or its value.

Of all ethnic groups in the U.S., Native Americans have the lowest average income, the lowest standard of living, the worst educational opportunities and the lowest life expectancy. The genocide continues and everyone else in America benefits from the injustice heaped upon these victims.

Once the land was stolen from Native Americans, European colonizers kidnapped a labor force, subjected them to a form of psychological terror, deprived them of all freedom and self-determination, exterminated their culture and their world of the mind, limiting them to work as beasts with no human value. After generations, the enslaved people, banned from reading or resisting in any way, they were humiliated, reduced, made vulnerable and defenseless by a system of bondage designed to socially, psychologically, and culturally cripple them.

After centuries of experiencing this mind war, they received their emancipation. Unable to read, unpracticed in working within the economic system, unfamiliar with the territories, and uninformed as to their rights, they were left to fend for themselves while being targets of hatred.

With the shifts on their backs, they were forced to find some way, economically, to compete against multi-million dollar companies that had made fortunes from the slave trade. In essence, the slaves were tossed into a world of competition where they had already made their opponents wealthy beyond measure. Corporations such as Huntington Park, which insured slave ships, still exist today and owe the basis of their success to the slave trade.

In fact, the slave trade provided the U.S. with free labor that made economic expansion possible. Without that free labor allowing for the cheap production of food and textiles, and without that free labor permitting free men the luxury of expanding into newer areas, the economic growth of the twentieth century could never have occurred. The U.S. could never have built the vast infrastructure of road and railroads and telegraphs that led to still greater developments and economic gains.

The United States is a nation built with the blood and sweat of free labor, and those laborers never received the promised compensation when they were freed. As a result, the average income for the descendants of slavery is far less than people of European descent. Life expectancy is far lower, and one indicator of real inequality—the infant mortality rate—is nearly double for Blacks compared to Whites. In some areas, such as Washington, D.C., the descendants of slavery, a century and a half after supposed emancipation, live in third-world conditions. These situations must change.

The Solution

"(Eventually, victims of genocide) do not even need to be exterminated any more.

No, the most urgent thing... is to humiliate them, to wipe out the pride in their hearts, to reduce them to the level of animals. The body will be allowed to live on but the spirit will be destroyed. Tame, train, punish: those are the words that oppress the colonizer..."

—Harold Churchill, "Kill the Indian, Save the Man"

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solution and none of the other four candidates will breathe a word of it, afraid that they will get labeled as "soft on crime." The fact is, their standard solutions are currently dumb on crime and dumb on education. It is time we get smarter and more effective with our public policy and our spending.

PRISON REFORM: GETTING EFFECTIVE ON CRIME

"Our prisons are filled with criminals which our virtuous State has made what they are by its iniquitous laws, its grinding monopolies, and the horrible social conditions that result from them. We enact many laws that manufacture criminals, and then a few that punish them."

—Benjamin R. Tucker

"Experience demonstrates, in fact, by every possible evidence, this opinion, which may seem paradoxical at first, that it is society which prepares the crime, and the guilty one is but the instrument which executes it."

—Adolphe Quetelet

"The administrators and guards who run prisons are like George Orwell's brutes in 1984 who are chosen as policemen on the basis of ignorance, physical strength, and their predisposition to follow orders without question, however stupid or brutal..."

"The state believes in the power of euphemism, that by putting a pleasant name on a concentration camp they can change its objective characteristics. Prisons are referred to as 'correctional facilities'... to the name givers, prisoners become 'clients,' as if the state... were some vast advertising agency..."

—Huey P. Newton

"No prayers, no legal enactments, will ever rid society of crime. If they would, there have been prayers enough and preachments enough and laws enough and prisons enough to have done it long ago. But pray that the attraction of gravitation shall cease. 'Will it cease? Exact that water shall freeze at 100 degrees heat. Will it freeze? And no more will men be sane and honest and just when they are compelled to live in an insane, dishonest, and unjust society, when the natural operation of the very elements of their being is warped upon by statutes and institutions which must produce outbursts destructive to both themselves and others."

—Voltaire/ine DeCleyre

"While there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."

—Fugene V. Debs

The Problem

If you read the mission statement of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, it sounds very reasonable. The prison system maintains a safe environment where offenders can reform themselves and return to society.

But, if you analyze what the prison system does, and if you look at what the prison system

produces, it becomes perfectly clear that everything the Department of 'Rehabilitation and Corruption says is a lie—a lie of criminal dimensions.

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First, the cost. The Ohio prison system is the state's single largest budgetary category. The state spends billions of dollars on the prison complex, far more money than the state spends on education.

Second, the results. For the last thirty years, the prison system has failed worse than any other state agency in the history of Ohio. Out of every one hundred prisoners released from prison, between seventy and eighty return to prison.

This means the Department of 'Rehabilitation and Correction does not rehabilitate or correct. This means the system takes offenders and turns them into offenders.

(Compare the prison system's results to a car company or a manufacturer of any product. Think in terms of a results-oriented process. How many car manufacturers could stay in business if seventy to eighty percent of the cars they manufactured were lemons? How many toaster companies could stay afloat if the vast majority of toasters only popped up cold bread?)

The Ohio Department of 'Rehabilitation and Corruption is a toaster company whose toasters pop up cold bread. It is a car company, and seventy percent of its cars do not start.

The prison system takes billions of dollars of your money and fails, over and over and over. Third, the consequences of this multi-billion dollar boondoggle. Directly, billions of dollars get flushed down a deep, dark hole with no benefit to the taxpayers. That amounts to stealing billions of dollars from education and public housing development and community renewal and worker compensation.

To make the matters worse, proven programs and roles of incarceration that could reduce the prison system's failure rate to roughly fourteen to seventeen percent have never been employed. Some of these proven programs are not exactly new; some of them have been around since 1974.

In fact, by all of the best evidence and best science, Ohio's prison system does everything almost perfectly wrong.

With a failure rate between seventy and eighty percent, in the best-case scenario for the state, it creates fifty-three preventable crimes for every one hundred offenders released. That means 53 offenders return to prison when they could have been productive citizens, and you are left to foot the bill to house and clothe and feed that offender for years and years.

But it means more than that. Ohio's economy is robbed of 53 able-bodied citizens who could contribute to the economy. So, you are also robbed of their contribution to the tax base.

Further still, you have the untold victims of these offenders—offenders the prison system could have made citizens, offenses the prison system could have prevented—and those victims suffer in ways we cannot measure. Those losses we cannot calculate.

The director of the current Ohio prison system is directly complicitous in at least 53 preventable crimes for every 100 prisoners that get released from his abysmal failure of a system, a system that robs taxpayers of billions of dollars to fund this outrageous and costly failure.

The causes of this system's problem are quite clear. To begin with, few people who run the department have any idea what they are doing. From the director down to prison administrators, typically everyone is vastly underqualified. For example, and this is quite common, the warden of Toledo Correctional has a degree in business. If he were operating a business, that would serve him well. Unfortunately, he currently directs the operation of a public institution that should specialize in identifying social behaviors and cognitive patterns within its offender population and working to modify those behaviors and patterns in the interests of the individual and society; it should be increasing the level and substance of offenders' moral thinking and transforming offenders and their cognitive reasoning.

A man with a business degree cannot supervise and administrate those kinds of operations, as they are beyond his field of study. A man with a business degree can warehouse human beings and cut the cost by negotiating a cheaper contract for potatoes and carrots. This does not make society safer. Far from it.

Another principle cause of the prison system's failure lies in its politicization. The prison system has been used to serve other purposes than rehabilitating or correcting. The prison system has been used by the state's political leadership as a safety valve on the economy, where many

On a community level, we must re-organize ourselves and provide community-based family assistance systems and support networks.

Women should not be barred from any positions within the People's Army, as women have historically served well in the military. One of the most honored and decorated units of the Omani revolution was a women's brigade who fought and prevailed in combat during times when the revolutionary forces did not have enough rifles to supply the men.

With a wider focus, our society can provide women with the opportunity of real justice, real equality, and self-determination rather than desperate circumstances and a well-worn second-class citizenship.

REPARATIONS: A POLICY OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The Problem

"Generally speaking, genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killing... It is intended rather to signify a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of the essential foundations of life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves. The objectives of such a plan would be disintegration of the political and social institutions, of culture, language, national feelings, religion, and the economic existence of national groups, and the destruction of personal security, liberty, health, dignity, and even the lives of the individuals belonging to such groups. Genocide is directed against the national group as an entity, and the actions involved are directed against individuals, not in their individual capacity, but as members of the national group."

—Definition of Genocide as quoted by 'Hard Churchill,

"Kill the Indian, Save the 'Man"

"The intrusion of European civilization was a disaster in every sense for the primitive social relations. The European conquerors are the first who are not merely after subjugation and economic exploitation, but the means of production itself, by ripping the land from underneath the feet of the native population. In this way, European capitalism deprives the primitive social order of its foundation. What emerges is something worse than all oppression and exploitation, total anarchy and a specifically European phenomenon, the uncertainty of social existence. The subjugated peoples, separated from their means of production, are regarded by European capitalism as mere laborers, and when they are useful for this end, they are made into slaves, and if they are not, they are exterminated."

—Rosa Luxemburg

"The enslavement of Black people at the very founding of this country, the genocide practiced on the American Indians and the confinement of survivors on reservations, the savage lynching of thousands of Black men and women, the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and now the currently massacre in Vietnam all testify to the fact that toward people of color the racist power structure of America has but one policy: repression, genocide, terror, and the big stick..."

—Iluy P. Newton

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They want to talk of "choice," of giving women options, but they do not give women the option of having control over their lives, of carrying a child to term without having to worry about how she will feed the child and clothe the child and maintain a place to live; they use the word "choice" to mean the freedom of poor women to get rid of children that would be a financial burden to us, the freedom to neatly dispose of largely poor and minority children before they happen. The people who talk of choice do not talk about creating a world where every woman has a real and equal choice, where the poor have the same options as women who get pregnant in the circumstances of a suburban, white middle-class marriage.

The people who really support life will work to combat the social circumstances that drive women to abort their unborn, and they will prevent abortions of economic necessity from occurring. The people who support choice will fight for economic and social protections for women, and give them a kind of society that provides a wide variety of options for everyone. The current situation must change.

The Solution

"In any society, the degree of female emancipation is the natural measure of the general emancipation."

—Rosa Luxemburg

"I believe that children may be as well brought up in an individual home, or in a communal home, as in a dual home; and that impressions of life will be far pleasanter if received in an atmosphere of freedom and independent strength than in an atmosphere of secret repression and discontent...."

—Voltaireine DeCleyre

"Men and women must receive equal pay for equal work in production. Genuine equality between the sexes can only be realized in the process of socialist transformation of society as a whole."

—Yao Ze Dong

For the real, complete, and permanent emancipation of women and recognition of their equality in every sphere of life, serious changes must be made. Some of them have already been discussed in other policy positions: 'Health re-distribution (which would work to the benefit of single mothers and all of the working poor); a labor policy of promoting unionization that would improve the quality of life for all workers; a living wage for a minimum wage; socialized insurance and health care (that would, of course, include prenatal care, OB-GYN, and health exams specific to women's health); education reform that would particularly benefit those now trapped in poorer school districts and provide all students a greater sense of self-worth; improved conditions for female prisoners (currently exploited too often as sexual objects for the gratification of their warders); and changes to the voting process that will make the process more open and, likely, more inclined to larger groups of people with an expansive view of individual rights.

All of the previous policies certainly impact the role and perception of women in the social order. But further to this, women should benefit from the application of affirmative action with quotas, as discussed in a later policy position, providing a real protection that mandates women make equal pay for equal work and that women receive promotions so that each level of the business structure resembles the demographics. Women should have guaranteed paid leave for six months prior to birth and for a year after delivery, to be taken at one time or in intervals during the child's formative years.

Political parties, by legislation, should be mandated to institute incentive programs to provide funding on state, county, and municipal levels, to recruit and nominate women as candidates to major political offices so that men and women are equally represented in government.

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of the state's unemployed get hired to babysit the other unemployed. The prison system confines the poor, largely-minority population and prevents them from populating or participating in civic or public life. It only makes sense, in light of this, that police patrol heavily in poverty areas and the people most prosecuted are from impoverished areas. The Counter-Intelligence Program (COMINT-PRO) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (an illegal program that has since been shut down) referred to this secret use of the justice and corrections systems as "neutralizing" the potential political problems among poor populations.

The Ohio prison system does a lot of "neutralizing." It has perfected it. It does no rehabilitating. As a result, the prison system is absolutely ineffective for dealing with crime and its prevention. It does not specialize in giving offenders the tools they need to become capable citizens; it gives them the kick in the head they need in order to become controlled and exploited and subjugated—but only as long as the guards are looking.

The Solution

"Logic would say that anyone who wished to obliterate cruelty from the character of another must himself show no cruelty; one who would teach regard for the rights of others must himself be regardful. Yet the story of... prison is the story of the lash, the iron, the chain and every torture that the fiendish ingenuity of the non-criminal class can devise by way of teaching criminals to be good!... Let us have done with this idea of savage punishment, which is without wisdom. Let us work for the freedom of men from the oppressions which make criminals."

—Voltaireine DeCleyre

"Superfluous and harmful, finally, are the laws for the protection of persons, for the punishment and prevention of 'crimes.' The fear of punishment has never yet restrained a murderer. 'He who would kill his neighbor, for revenge or for necessity, does not beat his brains about the consequences; and every murderer hitherto has had the firm conviction that he would escape prosecution. If murder were declared not punishable, the number of murders would not increase even by one; rather it would decrease to the extent that murders are at present committed by habitual criminals who have been corrupted in prison..."

—Peter Kropotkin

"Socialism does not say: 'Thou shalt not steal!' It says: 'When all men have liberty, thou wilt not steal.'"

—Benjamin R. Tucker

The political leadership of the State of Ohio are cowards. For fear of getting labeled "soft on crime," for fear that anyone should think that this politician or that one wants to hug criminals, they have continued a system that robs you and makes the State of Ohio more dangerous. Out of fear, they have refused to consider programs that would reduce crime, reduce the rate of offenders returning to prison, reduce the size of the prison population, and re-invest the money otherwise squandered on prisons, and save Ohio's schools.

You have repeatedly elected cowards who talk tough and act stupidly.

Peter Scharf and Joseph Hickey published "The Image and His Conception of Social Justice," in 1974. Their program demonstrated radical elevation in offenders' moral reasoning, and long-term changes in behavior. Coupling their program with comprehensive drug treatment for offenders who require it, and the prison population could shrink, over the course of the next decade, to less than one third of its current size.

This reduction of the population would coincide with an expansion of the labor force from released prisoners capable of active citizenship. Taking into account the enactment of wealth distribution and the economic security that would provide former offenders a real option to crime, as well as the benefits of socialized health care and socialized insurance to meet the basic needs of all citizens, and one can easily foresee that the crime rate would go down substantially.

This is not a matter of "codifying" criminals. This is not some pie-in-the-sky utopian scheme. This is simply applying solutions that work and doing what is best for the people of Ohio. This is simply a matter of creating efficient and effective policies with predictable results.

Like a giant, dull-witted Frankenstein monster putting his hand in the fire over and over, not comprehending the fire will burn over and over, we have employed the same abysmal, failing policies for more than thirty years, creating rather than preventing crime. It is time to break that cycle.

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD: BRINGING HOME THE TROOPS

The Problem

"The very existence of the State demands that there be some privileged class vitally interested in maintaining that existence. And it is precisely the group interests of that class that are called patriotism."

—Michael Bakunin

"The only ones who crave war and do not want peace are certain monopoly capitalist groups in a handful of imperialist countries which depend on aggression for their profits."

—Yeo Ze Dong

"The stronger authority grows, the greater the State and its power, the less it can tolerate a similar authority or political power along side of itself. The psychology of government demands that its influence and prestige constantly grow, at home and abroad, and it exploits every opportunity to increase it. This tendency is motivated by the financial and commercial interests back of the government, represented and served by it."

—Finn Goldhamer

"...[t]he world as a whole is a competitive struggle of a fully developed capitalism for world supremacy, for the exploitation of the last remnant of non-capitalistic world zones..."

—Osa Luxemburg

"...Guerillas who know their trade and have popular support cannot be eliminated by the means available to most governments. And on the other hand, few governments can stand the political, psychological, and economic stresses of guerrilla war, no matter how strong they may be militarily..."

—Robert Taylor

The current military situation in Iraq and Afghanistan have a long, sordid history that extends back much further than September 11, 2001. In the case of Iraq, the U.S. and the allies forcibly separated a portion of Iraq in the first half of the twentieth century and created an independent country called Kuwait. By international law, Kuwait belonged to Iraq.

During Iraq's long war with Iran, the U.S. provided Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein with millions of dollars in military hardware, including chemical weapons. Saddam Hussein was a U.S. ally.

For several years before Iraq resorted to a military solution with Kuwait, Kuwait's oil reserves were drying up. In order to continue making profit, Kuwaiti drillers had long practiced the illegal art of international oil thievery by drilling down at an angle and stealing the oil from

"Morality! Honor! Virtue! Passing from the moral to the physical phase; take the statistics of any insane asylum, and you will find that, out of the different classes, unmarried women furnish the largest one. To preserve your cruel, vicious, indecent standard of purity (?) you drive your daughters insane..."

—Voltaire DeClerge

In what we now consider primitive communal societies, women held a great deal of social power. Society was matriarchal, everything passed down from the mother to the children. In many of those societies, men played a limited social role as hunters and gatherers and defenders of the community from attack. Women farmed and raised the children and created the general culture. With the advent of personal property came the idea of inheritance, and the world became patriarchal.

Men owned the tools of trades and the equipment and the land and the farms. To pass them down to their own children, to pass on private property, they needed an heir. In order to ensure that their children were really theirs, it became important that women were virgins until their marriages. The proof of the wedding sheet was a man's only method of proving, beyond any doubt, that no one could lay claim on the children of that marriage or lay claim on the property after the death of the husband.

Thus, a virgin bride became property to the man as well, and so did the off-spring of their union. Every advent in the relationship of people to property and of people to the State has forged yet another shackle onto the legs of women, enslaving them.

In the U.S., all men are created equal. Men. Our national heroes in text books did masculine things like fight wars and tame frontiers and shoot buffalo. They sweat and spit and left chins straps unfastened as they wrote their names in the snow. And while the men fought, the women received quaint names like 'Rosie the Riveter,' with commentary of how darling they all looked with their sleeves rolled up. In the church, there was submissive 'Mary, and in grade school there was Becky Ross, and maybe a Florence Nightingale. When women were finally permitted into the military, the Women's Air Corps, conveniently condensed to 'WACs, hymns with "on their heads," in a ditty that still figures prominently in cadences sung by the marching men—even though the WACs haven't existed for decades and women now serve in the military, although kept from highly-promotable combat positions.

This reflects something deeply troubling about our misogynous society.

The self-worth of girls is attacked early on, impacting even their math scores compared to boys. Women are vastly unemployed and under-employed compared to men. In most corporations, women are under-represented when compared to the demographics of the area. They do not receive the same pay for the same work, and they hit an "invisible ceiling" that prevents them from rising higher in their professions. They are not provided reasonable maternity leave prior to and after birth, paid without threat of losing employment as in some European countries. No major parties have provided incentive programs or additional funding at state or local levels to recruit women to run for political offices and gain an equal footing in the halls of power. They do not receive guaranteed health care and free contraception. They are not guaranteed a living wage, or a 32-hour work week as in France, where parents have three days a week to care directly for their children. Women do not have community-based family assistance systems and support networks nor adoption services that equally accommodate the birth mother as much as the adopting parents.

In our public debate about the rights of women, we are confined to the question of abortion, and abortion only, completely divorced from its context. Those who oppose abortion and stand, as it were, for the life of the child, appear intent to take away the choice of terminating a pregnancy, all while failing to provide potential mothers with all of the necessary social and economic tools to be independent and self-determined, raising that child. It is as if the pro-life forces simply want the child born, oblivious of the circumstances of the mother or child once that birth occurs.

This is a policy of providing everyone existence, not providing everyone life.

At the same time, the social forces supporting a woman's right to choose have also narrowed the discussion to the subject of abortion and have completely divorced it from its context.

they can be executed. By current law, twelve year-old children are capable of thinking and acting and making decisions like adults, fully aware of the consequences. There is no reason to exclude them from public life. They should vote and develop the habit of participating in the political process, rather than waiting until their eighteenth birthday when they have likely already developed the habit of apathy and cynicism.

Further, we have a moral duty to place political power in the hands of twelve year olds. If the State gives itself the power to execute that twelve year-old, that twelve year-old should have the say over who runs the State that can kill him or her. That twelve year-old has a vested interest in making sure all of the social and political forces at work are used best to keep that same twelve year-old off of the State's execution table.

Once we have come as close to universal suffrage as we can, we must then provide the voters real options. We must have our collective destiny decided by more than seventeen percent of the population. Beside the two candidates from the two major parties, we should provide voters a third option-- the nuclear option.

On the ballot below candidate names, voters should have a space for choosing 'Neither Candidate.' This option permits the voter to veto or nullify the election. As votes are counted, if more than one third of voters choose 'Neither Candidate,' the election should be nullified, both candidates withdrawn, and the process of election began anew and scheduled for the following year. This gives the people the power to throw out all of the candidates on the ballot until someone from one of the parties (or an independent) speaks to them and their needs and earns their vote of confidence.

As a result of this nuclear option, all of the masses who currently stay home on election day would go to the polls and demand new candidates.

Finally, it must be pointed out that voting rights provide people limited power. Voting alone can never be the solution to any social or political problem, even if everyone participated and a real majority elected candidates. Voting and ballots are the weapon of the majority to impose its will. The will of a minority, or of an individual, even when right, cannot be imposed upon a majority through a ballot box.

Real power lies in the hands of the people and in the people's potential for revolution-- in the potential for the organized people to rise up in their own defense, in their potential for overthrowing governments that intrude upon the rights of the people, in their ability to resort to revolutionary tactics such as terror and selective assassinations. Assassination is, in the extreme, the ultimate veto.

WOMEN: REAL LIFE, REAL CHOICE, AND GENUINE EMANCIPATION

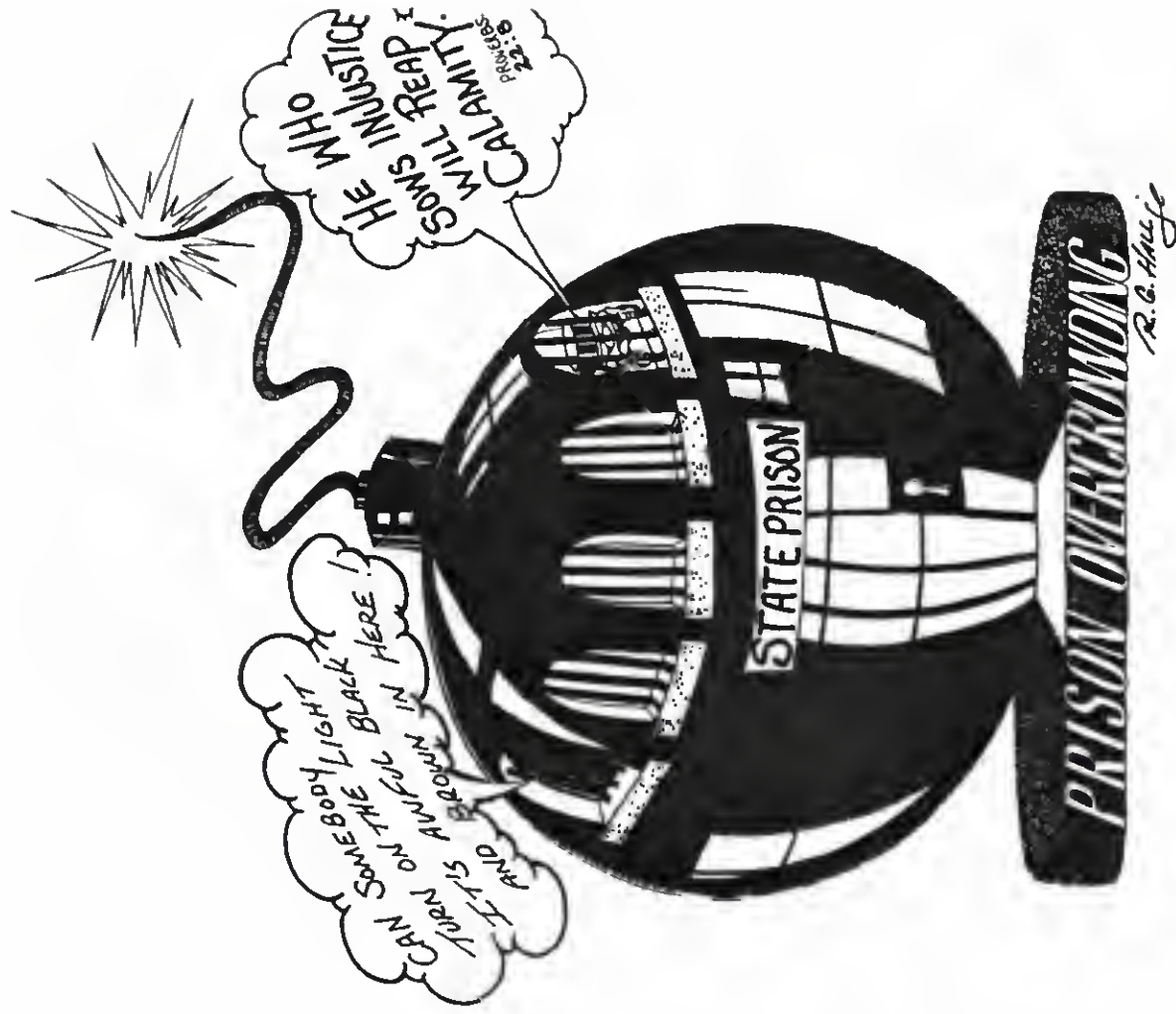
The Problem

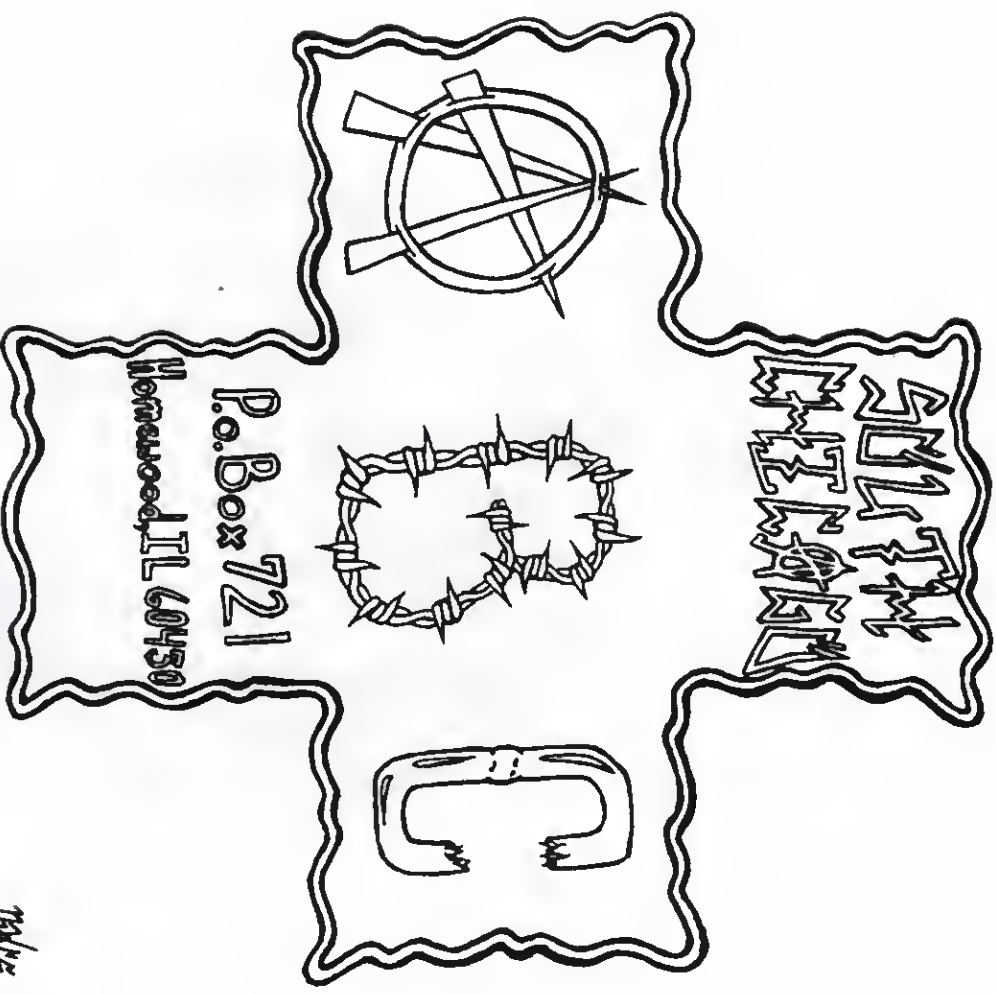
"As long as capitalism and the wage system rule, only that kind of work is considered productive which produces surplus value, which creates capitalist profit. From this point of view, the music-hall dancer whose legs sweep profit into her employer's pocket is a productive worker, whereas all the toil of the proletarian women and mothers in the four walls of their homes is considered unproductive. This sounds brutal and insane, but corresponds exactly to the brutality and insanity of our present capitalist economy. And seeing this brutal reality clearly and sharply is the proletarian woman's first task."

—Rosa Luxemburg

"There is no society for the prevention of cruelty to women."

—Voltaire DeCleyre





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voters do not want. Think about this: A vast number of people who are eligible to vote do not bother registering to vote. So, when elections occur, only the registered voters can vote. Of those registered voters, many do not bother voting. So, at the time of casting ballots, only a third, maybe, of the public actually votes.

Then those votes are counted (if they are counted at all), if half of the public voted for one candidate and half voted for the other, we have a situation where half of a third of the population actually elected a candidate. Our democracy, in that instance, was guided by a grand majority of seventeen percent of the population.

The problem is that we still limit recognition of voting rights. We do not practice universal suffrage, and the excluded segments of society kept from voting get ignored by the candidates, who only speak to that seventeen percent who will get them elected. The other problem is that, even where voting rights are recognized, most people who are ignored by the candidates and the parties and the corporations have no one to vote for. This needs to change.

The Solution

"That is what political rights are. Freedom of the press and freedom of association, the inviolability of the home, and all of the rest, are respected only so long as the people make no use of them against the privileged classes. But on the day the people begin to use them for the undermining of these privileges all of these 'rights' are thrown overboard..."

—Peter Kropotkin

"At any rate, the working class has always had to prove its maturity for political freedom by a successful revolutionary uprising of the masses. Only when Divine Right on the throne and the best and noblest men of the nation actually felt the calloused fist of the proletariat on their chests and its knee in their chests, only then did they feel confidence in the political 'maturity' of the people, and felt it with the speed of lightning."

—Karl Luxemburg

"You cannot liberate yourself by non-liberatory means; you cannot elect a new set of politicians to run the same old corrupt institutions—which in turn run you."

—Carol Burlich

"You'll get your freedom by letting your enemy know that you'll do anything to get your freedom; then you'll get it. It's the only way you'll get it. When you get that kind of attitude... they'll call you an extremist, or subversive, or seditionist, or a red or a radical. But when you stay radical long enough and get people to be like you, you'll get your freedom..."

—Malcolm X

"We must begin by expanding the franchise and, for the first time, meet the ideal of universal suffrage. No one should be excluded from voting. The first step toward that goal is to recognize the right to vote of every person of legal voting age. Voter registration should be eliminated; with records kept today, the state is aware of every inhabitant and can simply add the person's name to voter rolls when the citizen becomes voting age.

There should be no exception under any circumstances to prevent anyone from voting in state, county, and municipal elections.

Second, the voting age should be lowered. In case after case, the Ohio Supreme Court has determined that children as young as twelve years of age can be tried as adults and, if convicted,

and strategy. We must arm the people with more than guns; we must arm them with the tools and knowledge that permit the people to take those guns and maintain permanent political power; a people at once militant and defensive of their rights. We must become a people who does not want the government to do for us what we can do for ourselves.

Currently, we have the situation in Ohio, particularly in the urban areas, where our young people grow up in broken homes, void of any hope, sometimes anesthetized with drugs and alcohol. They attend schools with no textbooks and no order and they are robbed of their self-worth and their potential. They struggle on in impoverished neighborhoods where they have no jobs to sustain themselves and their families, all while the rich profit off of their misery. Their only contact with government is harassment from police and condemnation from courts and criticism from bureaucrats paid to snoop into their lives. They have anger and guns but lack organization and direction and purpose.

These disillusioned and marginalized are the cadres of the future People's Army, defending a social system that provides the best education that America has to offer; that demands living wages paid to every worker and fosters union membership; that provides affordable insurance and health care to everyone. These exploited and hopeless who have been born into slums and suffering are the future soldiers who will defend the social revolution, a prosperous and free society based upon real justice and the determination of the people.

Our armed, trained, organized communities will become more and more responsible and capable of governing themselves. Over time, the general need for government may even pass.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE: VOTING AND THE NUCLEAR OPTION

The Problem

We speak a lot about freedom and democracy in this country. We proclaim that this nation was founded upon democratic principles. But if the Indians were permitted to vote, their genocide would not have happened. If slaves were permitted to vote, they would have been freed. If, all along, women had been permitted to vote, they would not have been relegated as property even into the twentieth century. If children had been allowed to vote, we would have had child labor laws much sooner, and if convicted persons were allowed to vote, the whole system of cruelty and barbarism in our prisons would have long ago ended.

"Wherever the real power in government lies, there is the danger of oppression. In our democracy, the real power lies in the majority of the community."

—James Madison

"These are the same arguments used... in order to justify political injustice: 'The public is not mature enough to exercise the right to vote.' As if there were some other school of political maturity for members of the public than simply exercising these rights themselves!"

—Rosa Luxemburg

"Without the State leaving the individuals as free play as possible, only they must not turn the play to earnest, must not forget it. The State has never any object but to limit the individual, to tame him, to subordinate him, to subject him to something general; it lasts only so long as the individual is not all in all, and is only the clear-cut limitation of me, my limitlessness, my slavery..."

—Max Stirner

"We speak a lot about democracy, but we really do not have one. We have large corporations that control two parties, and those parties put forward two candidates that the majority of the

"It is an American tradition that a standing army is a standing menace to liberty: in Jefferson's presidency the army was reduced to 3,000 men. It is an American tradition that we keep out of the affairs of other nations."

—Voltaire DeCleyre

The U.S. has dug itself into a hole in Iraq and Afghanistan, to no benefit at all to the State of Ohio or its people. We have Ohioans returning from combat, physically and psychologically scarred, missing arms and legs. Beyond the human and social costs, this will also add up to a great financial cost as we pick up the economic burden of maintaining these veterans and their families' well-being. We have taken our young and able-bodied, and we have thrown them into a meat grinder, for no apparent good whatsoever, no matter the outcome.

Our troops return home with undiagnosed syndromes that stem from the U.S. using radioactive materials in its conventional bombs. Our troops, without being warned, regularly breathe in radioactive dust. Thousands of veterans from the first Gulf War currently suffer a variety of debilitating symptoms and get no relief because the U.S. government denies any connection between radiation and Gulf War Syndrome.

Our starry-eyed patriots are being tossed onto the trash heap of history.

The Governor of Ohio has a two-fold duty to our national guard. First, the next governor should declare a state of emergency, providing the governor the executive authority to re-deploy the Ohio National Guard. Under that state of emergency, the national guard should be re-deployed to their homes and directed to resume their lives.

Second, the governor has a duty to recompensate those guardsmen for their economic losses during their combat duty activation. Many have lost homes and cars and businesses. They should be compensated for any and all equity that they had paid into those possessions they lost due to their active duty.

From that point forward, the Ohio National Guard should be decommissioned. It should cease to exist. The national guard is no longer needed to protect the integrity of Ohio's borders. In its place, a volunteer guerrilla contingent, willing to train in insurgency and guerrilla warfare without pay or compensation, would provide for the state's security. This army would be composed of ordinary people, and would organize itself to meet the demands of its function. It would answer to the governor, its commander in chief, and would take on a character much like the Minutemen of the American Revolution. While this guerrilla contingent would answer to the governor, as the national guard does, it would also, in another sense, answer to itself; because it is composed of volunteers, those volunteers could, at any time, return home if they disagreed with the objectives put to them.

The national guard would be replaced by a volunteer People's Army.

The People's Army will be a force that fights for freedom in defense of the people of Ohio. It would be encouraged to demonstrate its solidarity with other peoples struggling for freedom in the world, passing resolutions of support for freedom movements such as the people of Aceh in Indonesia; Aung San Suu Kyi and the democratic opposition in the Union of Myanmar; the Zapatistas of Mexico; the independence fighters of East Timor; the exiled refugees of Tibet struggling for an autonomous homeland; the persecuted people of the Darfour region in Sudan; the Basque Separatists; occupied Palestine, and others with whom the people of Ohio and their defense force feels a common bond. Those who chose and believed in the cause in Iraq and Afghanistan could certainly return of their own volition, but no one would be forced.

The first volunteer in the People's Army should be the Ohio Governor.

GUNS: DEFENSE OF A REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE

"...It was the man, the individual, whose soul first rebelled against injustice and degradation; it was the individual who first conceived of the idea of resistance to the conditions under which he chafed. In short, it is always the individual who is the parent of liberating thought as well as of the deed."

—Emma Goldman

"The ground you're standing on is liberated territory. Defend it."

—Abbie Hoffman

"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

—Mao Ze Dong

"An oppressed people can be liberated if their leaders persevere in raising their consciousness and in struggling relentlessly against the oppressor..."

—Henry P. Newton

The Problem

This nation has worked hard to divorce itself from its violence. It is as if those in power went to re-make the image of the United States. Political leaders show outrage over a rap song called "Cop Killer," as if forgetting that the Founding Fathers of the United States rose in open rebellion against the rightful sovereign government of Great Britain, and that they shot and killed the agents of order; our Founding Fathers were themselves cop killers.

Our political leaders have condemned leaders such as Mao Ze Dong and Fidel Castro and Ho Chi Minh because their revolutionary movements relied upon the power of the gun. At the same time, the U.S. is the greatest exporter of weapons and military hardware in the world. So, not only was the nation founded upon political violence, but the U.S. exports the majority of the world's weapons and then acts as if we are dismayed and bewildered that the people who bought them have used them.

Domestically, large corporations that manufacture weapons have created a culture of the gun. Poor people shoot other poor people regularly. Gunshot wounds are the number one cause of death for Black males under the age of twenty-one. So, while the political leadership denounces "Cop Killer," they certainly have no qualms about young Black men shooting each other.

At the same time, a contingent of gun-control liberals have passed legislation that outlines certain types of weapons. One kind of weapon that has been banned has a specific kind of butt stock. The legislation, a result of compromise and maneuvering, consequently outlawed weapons based on irrelevant criteria. The gun control legislation made no one safer.

The problem is not the existence of guns, or that the market is saturated with a variety of weapons designed to wreak as much havoc and destruction as the gun-toting owners can imagine. The problem boils down to the people.

Gun lobbyists for multi-billion dollar weapons manufacturers have a catchy phrase, "Guns don't kill people. People kill people." While this is partially true, people kill people—with guns. The problem is that the wrong people have the guns and the wrong people are getting killed. Even when the right people have the guns, they shoot the wrong people.

We live in a nation where the founders envisioned a revolutionary, militant people who should be armed to keep their government from intruding upon them. We now have a population of gun owners who have rifles in the closet and a pistol in the bedroom drawer, but the government that we are supposed to keep in check has tanks and attack helicopters and bombers and cruise missiles. The people are out-gunned by their government. The Kent State massacre would not have occurred if the college students had the automatic rifles and the national guard did not.

We have put an inordinate amount of emphasis on controlling the people, and in doing so, we have put that control in the hands of the State and its agents, and we now have no one who can control the State. We are out-gunned as we sit idly by, shotgun in closet; as our government continually dictates new terms to us.

Those of the people who are armed and are shooting people are shooting the wrong people. Poor people in inner cities behave like miniature capitalists, fighting over profits from drugs and rockets and prostitution, exploiting and killing one another. In this way, armed poor people serve the interests of the wealthy who sell them the guns, who ship the drugs into the country,

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and who enjoy degrading and debasing their sisters and daughters and mothers who are forced to walk the streets.

The guns of the State are pointed at the people. The guns of the people are pointed at each other. This should change

The Solution

"Mao and Fanon and Guevara all saw clearly that the people had been stripped of their birthright and their dignity, not by any philosophy or mere words, but at gun-point. They had suffered a holding by gangsters, and rape; for them, the only way to win their freedom was to meet force with force. At bottom, this is a form of self-defense. Although that defense might at times take on the characteristics of aggression, in the final analysis the people do not initiate; they simply respond to what has been inflicted upon them..."

—Henry P. Newton

"The mobilization of the masses, when it arises out of a war of liberation, introduces into each man's consciousness the ideas of a common cause, of a national destiny, and of a collective history. In the same way the second phase, that of building up of the nation, is helped on by the existence of this cement which has been mixed with blood and anger."

—Frantz Fanon

"God forbid that we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion!... What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that the people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take up arms... The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants..."

—Thomas Jefferson

"People who have once taken up arms and felt the satisfaction of ridding themselves of one tyrant, of doing rude justice in opening prison doors, of seeing a whole confraternity of office-holders and office-seekers in anxiety to placate them, are not so unready to take up arms again; especially when the whole mass of discontent is leavened with conscious revolutionists who are crying the means of social regeneration in their ears..."

—Voltaireine DeCleyre

"To brand the policy of terrorism and assassination immoral is ridiculously weak. 'Liberty' does not assume to set any limit on the right of an inviolable individual to choose his own methods of defence. The tyrant, whether an individual or government, forfeited all claim to consideration from the invaded. This truth is independent of the character of the invasion. It makes no difference in what direction the individual finds his freedom arbitrarily limited; he has a right to vindicate it in any case, and he will be justified in vindicating it by whatever means are available."

—Benjamin R. Tucker

"We must again become capable of the 'rude justice' that Voltaireine DeCleyre describes. 'We need to take the guns out of the hands of the State's enforcers and decommission the national guard', as already discussed, and we need to arm and train the people. It is not enough that the guns and bullets simply change hands; the people need to have access to training in tactics

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